

T3

SMARTER LIVING

GADGET *of the* YEAR

Hundreds of contenders.
One true winner

*The world's
greatest*

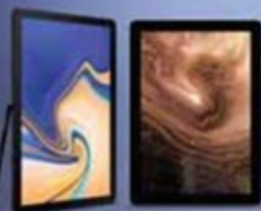
NEW
iPHONEXS
HANDS-ON

PLUS
WIN
ONE!

+

**iPAD-BEATING
TABLETS**

Microsoft
Surface Go
vs. Samsung
Tab S4



TESTED



THE HOME ROBOT REVOLUTION BEGINS

How Keecker could change your life

- SOUNDBARS
- SMART HOME
- TURNTABLES
- WATCHES
- 4K TV
- PHONES

HOT!

GOPRO HERO7

All hail the
new king

HONOR PLAY

High-end phone,
low-end price



WHATEVER
MAN YOU
WANT TO BE,
BE YOUR BEST

THE BEST A MAN CAN GET™



Gillette®

THE BEST A MAN CAN GET™



GAMECHANGER

The tech that's so cutting edge,
you're risking your fingers
just turning this page



SHINY HAPPY PEACHES

SonicSound won't just clean your clobber – it can also be used to wash fruit and vegetables, silverware, watches, specs, baby bottles and loads more. Sadly, it's not quite advanced enough to do your hoovering just yet...

SONIC SOAK

As stubborn as a teenage boy – and often created by them – stains have a well-earned reputation for being difficult to shift. And those fancy detergents you can buy at the supermarket are as unreliable as they are expensive. So what's the answer? Well, boffins in Los Angeles might have cracked that conundrum with an Indiegogo-funded device called the Sonic Soak. Touted as the "world's first portable ultrasonic cleaner", this bullet-shaped gadget is placed into a bowl of water with a soiled garment, whereupon it goes about its business of beating the crap out of the unsightly blemish – literally, if necessary – by churning out 50,000 silent but powerful soundwaves per second. The makers of this supercharged vibrator, which is due to land later this year, reckon it can get clothes 99.9 per cent clean within just 30 minutes, having used 40 times less water than your average washing machine. The fact that it looks absolutely nothing like a hedgehog is an added bonus. We can't wait to get our hands on one.

£TBA, sonicsoak.com

Meet the team



MATT BOLTON
Editor

Matt's personal gadget of the year is the Nintendo Switch. Yes, it came out over a year ago, but with the latest batch of games, and a summer of travel, it's become his essential companion.



CLAIRE DAVIES
Senior Content Editor
Claire's favourite gadget of the year is one she's been using pretty much every day: the Urbanista Tokyo wireless earbuds. They connect easily, fit well and make AC/DC sound better than ever...



JO GULLIVER
Senior Art Editor
Jo's fitness ambitions went up a notch this year with her addiction to the Wattbike Atom. The smart features have turned her into a data obsessive – why train if you can't track every detail?



MICHELLE MCLAREN
Art Editor
Michelle says she couldn't live without her Garmin Forerunner 645 Music for running. Having detailed data and being able to leave the big phone at home while still listening to music is bliss.



KIMBERLEY BALLARD
Production Editor
Kimberley's life would be so dull without her Empire Red KitchenAid 4.8 Litre Artisan Stand Mixer. She uses it to knead dough, make pasta and beat eggs, and even sleeps next to it. Wait, what?



ANDREW WESTBROOK
Operations Editor
A townhouse plus three kids equals depressing amounts of vacuuming, with all the stairs ruling out robo-options, so the Dyson V10 Cyclone has been Andy's saviour from dirt (and cursing) this year.



PAUL DOUGLAS
Global Editor-in-Chief, T3.com
The Fitbit Versa won Paul over this year. Most fitness watches are bulky, but this gives at-a-glance health stats without looking like he stuck a dustbin lid to his arm.



DUNCAN BELL
Lifestyle Editor, T3.com
Duncan's 2018 gadget love is the KEF LS50 Wireless speakers. They're the best marriage yet of hi-fi and tech not made by Naim, and have helped him discover fresh magic in his old tunes.



SPENCER HART
Product & Style Editor, T3.com
The gadget that continually impressed Spencer is the Google Pixel 2, or, more specifically, its camera. It's almost completely replaced his traditional snapper.



ROB JONES
Tech & Gaming Editor, T3.com
Rob's pick of 2018 is the Xbox One X. Its native 4K, HDR gaming capabilities and UHD Blu-ray support have sated his entertainment needs like nothing else.



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VISIT T3.COM

We've overhauled T3.com – the best site for gadget news and reviews now has a great new look and is fully responsive, enabling you to enjoy it on any device.



Editor's letter

It's T3 Awards season once again – the culmination of months of planning, short-listing, and finger-pointing discussions about what elevates a product to the lofty heights of winning an award... or even our big Gadget of the Year gong.

In some cases, we're discussing things outside of our own experiences, such as how much of an impact on the industry we think a product has had, or whether its features have out-innovated something else on the market. And then we talk about the more subjective elements, like which products we think are the most pleasant to use, or made the most difference in our lives. Somewhere in the middle of all that, our jury found a consensus on which devices deserve to be recognised as the best of the best. And with this year being our biggest-ever awards – there's a cool 50 categories stretching from laptops to fridges – we hope it'll be more helpful than ever in pointing you towards your next elite tech upgrade.

Speaking of which, it's also Apple update season, and I'm really impressed with the health features of the new Watch. A built-in ECG and fall detection could really save lives, and takes it from being a nice add-on for your phone to something that feels crazy *not* to have on you... just in case.

Matt Bolton, Editor

matthew.bolton@futurenet.com

Tweet me @matthewbbolton

T3'S MISSION

Our mission is to bring you the clearest recommendations we can – and that means a great deal of hard work happens before a product even reaches our pages!

Because we only feature products the T3 team would happily use ourselves, we end up discarding a significant number of options in each category before settling on a final shortlist to review. We select only the best of the best for our Tested section; the gear we know you'll want to seriously consider purchasing. And that should mean an end to you

having to undertake hours of painstaking research and product comparisons.

You won't see any duff products, but you will come away with clarity on which one is the best in its category or for a specific task: our awards badges (see below) ensure that everything T3 recommends is clearly highlighted on the page.

It goes without saying that every product in our review section as been thoroughly tested by our team of experts, enabling you to buy with total confidence.

OUR AWARDS



Only the best products – those that score five stars – receive our coveted Platinum Award



This is given to winners of our group tests, so you can see exactly which is the best at a glance



This accolade and others like it show you which gear is best for specific features or tasks



For kit that demonstrates exceptional industrial design and refinement, in addition to being great

Contents

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From hundreds of gadgets across 50 categories, these are the winners for 2018. Trust us, you'll want to take them all home



Holiday swagger



Get the Samsung Galaxy Note9 and claim your
free £150 easyJet holiday voucher.



SAMSUNG Galaxy Note9

All-you-can-eat data

£67
a month
£79 upfront



**Switch today online, in-store
or call 0333 338 1056.**

easyJet
holidays

£150 easyJet holiday voucher available on selected 24 month handset plans with 12GB+ data, can be used for easyJet package holidays with £800 minimum spend or a 3 night break for two people. One voucher per purchase, cannot be used for flight only, SMS voucher will be sent within 35 days of purchase, must be redeemed within 6 months of receipt of SMS. Bookings by phone only. ATOL protected. Terms apply. See Three.co.uk/go-rooms/easyjetholiday. Price includes £5 monthly discount for paying by a recurring method, such as Direct Debit. Each May, your monthly package price will increase by an amount up to the RPI rate, published in the February that year.



HORIZON

010 TOP 10

This month's hottest new gadgets, including Europe's first 8K telly!

018 STYLE

Wrap up without overheating with these stylish lightweight jackets



020 AUTO

Rain and snow? Pah! These all-weather rides will keep you on track

022 LIVING

Fresh new ways to light your home for autumn, plus B&O's rockable speaker

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Duncan Bell is upgrading. Again.



TESTED

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The world's first great home robot has come to revolutionise your life

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Looking for a pro tablet but not from Apple? Two duke it out right here

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Is this the new king of action cams?

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Behold, the ultimate TV for film lovers

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118 STYLISH LAPTOP BAGS

Carry the load and look good doing so

SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE BIG MONEY

Get the latest offers

094



WIN!

AN iPhone XS WITH A MOUS PROTECTIVE PHONE CASE

Get your hands on Apple's new phone, plus a military-grade case from Mous to keep your handset in tip-top condition

117



WORTH
£1,053

FEATURES

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THE NEW iPhone

Apple has unveiled its latest iPhone, a super-fast handset with ace looks and its most advanced processor ever. Then there's the new Watch 4, which is thinner, but has a bigger screen and the most advanced health tech yet



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LIFE-SIZE LEGO BUGATTI

We've found the ultimate Christmas gift: a Lego Bugatti Chiron. You can buy the model kit now, but not before reading how Lego built a life-size one from over a million pieces of plastic...



The biggest small music system

Immerse yourself in real stereo power and finesse. | **Two-box fully integrated music system with an audiophile-grade 230W x 2 dual mono amplifier.** | Never before have small music systems produced such scale and detail. | **Industry-acclaimed and patented Uni-Q concentric drive technology.** | Five minutes from unboxing, turn on your music and enjoy. | **Custom room EQ and integrated streaming.** | An acoustic performance so innovative, no wonder the most respected of reviewers are calling the KEF LS50 Wireless **"The Future of Hi-Fi."**

24bit/192kHz    OPT APP CONTROL   TIDAL ROOM

WHAT HI-FI?
AWARDS 2017

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
Hall of Fame
KEF LS50 Wireless

WHAT HI-FI?
AWARDS 2017

PRODUCT OF THE YEAR
Best all-in-one system over £1000
KEF LS50 Wireless

KEF.COM

KEF

OBSESSED WITH HIGH RESOLUTION

Horizon

The best new tech heading your way

Edited by Claire Davies

1 SAMSUNG Q900R

● ETBC, samsung.com

It probably doesn't seem like two minutes ago that you were shelling out a small fortune on a 4K TV, utterly convinced that the picture you'd just been ogling in the shop was as close as you were ever going to get to real life. Fast forward a year or two and Samsung is about to launch what is essentially the first 8K TV available to consumers in the UK – with *four times* as many pixels than a 4K TV.

The question is, if you were mind-blown by 4K, how much better can this new technology be? Naturally, Samsung thinks you'll appreciate the difference, hailing the Q900R – ranging in size from 65 to 85 inches – as “nothing short of brilliance in colour, clarity and sound”.

The picture quality is from several technologies: in addition to 8K (7680x4320) resolution, there's film-industry-standard, 4,000-nit-peak brightness; a feature called 100 per cent Colour Volume, producing billions of colour shades for class-leading accuracy; and Direct Full Array Elite, for enhanced contrast and backlighting control.

As for genuine 8K content to watch on it, there's precious little at the moment. The Q900R uses AI Upscaling to upgrade lower-res footage to something resembling native 8K video. Vimeo has 8K streaming, and YouTube has tested it, but don't expect ITV in 8K soon...

TECH-O-METER



TVs and cables take up so much space. Happily, Samsung includes its One Invisible Connection box, so your leads plug in there, tucked away, with one wire going to the TV



T3 SAYS...



I don't know what I'll do with 33 million pixels, but dammit I want them so badly...

Matt Bolton, Editor

BILLION COLOUR BABY

The Q900R's life-like imagery can be partly credited to Samsung's 100 per cent Colour Volume tech, which enables viewers to enjoy literally billions of shades of colour for enhanced detail and accuracy. Who knew that many colours existed?

SOUND INVESTMENT

This QLED telly isn't just a pretty picture – its intelligent brain analyses everything you're viewing, before providing you with the optimum audio balance to match the imagery. Live football will emphasise the crowd, nature documentaries can hit the little details

**MASSIVE STATEMENT**

Samsung knows that 8K should be viewed on a big screen – and we mean *big*. The Q900R only comes in 65-, 75-, 82- and 85-inch versions. As yet, it hasn't been confirmed which of these sizes will be available in the UK

2 **BOSE HOME SPEAKER 500** ● £399, bose.co.uk

If you're going to host a party that promises wall-to-wall debauchery, you'll need a sound system to match. Thanks to the presence of two custom drivers pointing in opposite directions, the sound from Bose's Alexa-enabled Home Speaker 500 bounces off the walls, creating a stereo effect the US company hails as "a wider soundstage than any other smart speaker". Big words, right? The omnipresent din shouldn't hinder your voice commands, either, thanks to eight mics inside the speaker. And should the shindig spread to other rooms, you can pair the Speaker 500 with an identical one, or with a Bose Soundbar 500/700 for some multi-room fun. There's even a built-in mini-screen for displaying the album covers of tracks you're blasting.

T3 SAYS: With massive sound and multi-room capability, this music machine is ready to party.

TECH-O-METER



3 **PIONEER UDP-LX500** ● £999, pioneer-audiovisual.eu

When Oppo Digital announced earlier this year that it would no longer be making home tech, it left a hole in the high-end Blu-ray market. Well, Pioneer appears to have won the race to fill it, launching a black box that's sure to inspire home-entertainment buffs. As well as featuring the Japanese company's first-ever 4K Blu-ray player, the UDP-LX500 plays standard Blu-rays, CDs and SACDs. But what justifies the price is the quality of its output: a robust build and low centre of gravity minimise the vibration in this universal disc player, allowing rotation speeds of up to 5,000rpm. Combined with support for Dolby Vision and HDR10, with premium DAC and a zero signal terminal, it's an experience that's as crisp as fresh popcorn.

T3 SAYS: Pioneer has stepped into Oppo Digital's vacant shoes with a universal disc player that offers high-end home entertainment.

TECH-O-METER



MIRRORLESS REINVENTED

A NEW BENCHMARK
IN OPTICAL PERFORMANCE



CAPTURE TOMORROW

Z series

Whether shooting stills or videos, the new full-frame Z series pushes the boundaries in imaging quality and lens capabilities, enabled by the all-new Z mount. Unleash full creative freedom with the newly designed NIKKOR Z lenses, or choose from over 90 fully AF/AE compatible NIKKOR F lenses*. Experience revolutionary optical performance in a compact form factor today.

ALL-NEW FULL-FRAME SYSTEM | QUAD VGA EVF |
NEW Z MOUNT & NIKKOR Z LENSES | IN-CAMERA 5 AXIS VR |
FULLY AF/AE COMPATIBLE WITH OVER 90 NIKKOR F LENSES*

*When paired with the optional FTZ mount adapter

For more information visit www.nikon.co.uk



4 **NIKON Z7** ● £3,399, parkcameras.com

Nikon celebrated its centenary last year, but rather than bathe in its glory, the Japanese company looked towards the next phase of its impressive journey. A year later, it's set tongues wagging again with its first full-frame mirrorless cameras. Joining the more mainstream-focused 24.5MP Z6 is the Z7, a snapper aimed squarely at serious photography enthusiasts (and with a price to reflect that). With a beastly 45MP CMOS sensor, an eXspeed 6 processing engine, a continuous shooting speed of up to 9fps, and big full-frame sensor, this Nikon boasts serious specifications. And yet all of this is contained within a compact mirrorless body that makes it a pleasure to wield on outdoor adventures... including shots of your pooch in the park.

T3 SAYS: Nikon's first full-frame mirrorless shooter is like the TARDIS - massive specs inside a compact body.

TECH-O-METER



5 **YAMAHA MUSICCAST VINYL 500** ● £537, uk.yamaha.com

With everywhere from supermarkets to garden centres now selling LPs, the vinyl renaissance isn't grinding down any time soon. Accordingly, audio companies are producing turntables that meet the requirements of techier setups. Yamaha's new record spinner is a case in point; with MusicCast capability, it can be wirelessly connected to MusicCast-enabled speakers for seamless multi-room playback. Fancy waking the kids up with a blast of *Brothers In Arms*? Open the app, press a few buttons and away you go. You're not limited to vinyl, either - the MusicCast Vinyl 500 streams music Spotify, Deezer and Tidal, and from your phone. As if you needed an excuse to buy more vinyl...

T3 SAYS: Meet the future! Now you can cast your records wirelessly into any room. Just remember: the kids might not like Jethro Tull.

TECH-O-METER



GPDesign beam



EXTEND YOUR VISION

Introducing beam by GPDesign. A collection of flashlights meticulously crafted for easy handling and robust performance. See our vision for smart, user-centered design at uk.gp-design.com



reddot design award
winner 2017



6 LENOVO YOGA C930

● From £899, lenovo.com

Lenovo's latest convertible could bring serious improvements for people working away from the office. With Dolby Vision producing ultra-vivid 4K imagery, and a rotating Dolby Atmos soundbar for three-dimensional sound, how could you not be tempted to engross yourself in the latest Marvel blockbuster? The ultrathin C930 also comes with the Cortana voice assistant, so you can easily choose a music playlist. We love the crisp E Ink screen, which replaces a traditional keyboard, and enhances writing, sketching and ereading – this thing's a laptop and a Kindle in one. An Intel Core i7 processor, up to 14.5 hours of battery life, and a digital pen mean it's maybe the most flexible work machine ever.

T3 SAYS: We're intrigued by the E Ink display and all the enhanced functionality it could introduce for work and play.

TECH-O-METER



7 SONY WH-1000XM3

● £330, sony.co.uk

Sony's latest noise-cancelling headphones boast an impressive 30-hour battery life, which is roughly how long it would take us to type out the full list of features. Most importantly, the WH-1000XM3s include the newly developed HD Noise Cancelling Processor QN1. However, appreciating that there will be times when you won't want to completely blot out the world, Sony adds a clever feature called Adaptive Sound Control, which will automatically adjust the level of noise cancellation to suit your surroundings. There's also something called Quick Attention: if someone stops you in the street to ask a question while you're lost in a world of Danish prog rock, simply place your hand over the casing and the volume will drop.

T3 SAYS: Your personal space has never been more adjustable, thanks to the most feature-packed headphones we've ever seen.

TECH-O-METER



8 GARMIN VIVOSMART 4

● £119, garmin.com

When fitness trackers first appeared, many wrote them off as a fad – flimsy rubber step-counters that held about as much long-term appeal as calculator watches. But those cynics clearly underestimated the boffins that build these things, as sports bands have advanced beyond recognition. Garmin's Vivosmart 3 was a massive hit with fitness freaks thanks to features like all-day stress tracking and a 'rep counter' for monitoring bench presses. The US company has upped the ante yet further with the tracker's fourth edition, adding a blood-oxygen

sensor, energy-reserve calculator, a seven-day battery life and water resistance. It's also slimmer than it used to be, which is handy for comfort, but is also a good omen for its wearers, right?

T3 SAYS: This feature-packed fitness tracker may end up knowing more about your body than you do.

TECH-O-METER



9 PHILIPS 65OLED903

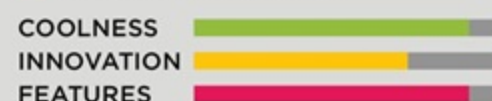
● £2,499 (55-inch)/£3,499 (65-inch), philips.co.uk

An OLED TV isn't just for Christmas, but there's bound to be some cracking telly, so you might want to buy a new panel to make the most of it. If you can't afford the Samsung 8Ker that heads up this section then your next best option is the latest 4K launch. The ultra-slim 65OLED903/12 has a lot going for it: P5 Perfect Picture Engine technology serves up crisp detail, authentic skin colouring and super-smooth motion; Google Assistant lets you navigate the telly's Android smarts with your voice, and Philips' tried-and-trusted Ambilight feature adds some psychedelic

pizzazz. Best of all, the TV boasts an integrated soundbar by audio experts Bowers & Wilkins, which we've heard in the flesh, and is a seriously impressive bit of kit for built-in TV speaker.

T3 SAYS: How to stand out in the TV market? Team up with one of the world's best audio companies!

TECH-O-METER



10 NETATMO SMART SMOKE ALARM

● £89, netatmo.com

How are you supposed to relax on your hols when you're constantly worrying that you've left the iron on at home and your house is going to catch fire at any minute? Easy! Install Netatmo's latest smart device to your ceiling. Using optical sensors, this stylishly understated gadget will detect the first signs of smoke, and immediately start pinging alerts to your and your partner's smartphone so that you can call the fire brigade. If you accidentally set it off when you're at home (damn that cheap toaster), you can use your phone to silence it via Bluetooth. And as for

those annoying beeps you usually get when smoke alarms run out of juice? No bother – this one will calculate when its 10-year battery is on its way out, and keep you posted via a notification.

T3 SAYS: Smart and reliable, this smoke detector has got your back while you're at home and away.

TECH-O-METER



JACK(ET) OF ALL TRADES

Not ready for your winter coat? Layer up in autumn with a lightweight jacket, wearing it over rollnecks, sweaters or hoodies

1



2



4



3



5



1 BARACUTA G9 MODERN HARRINGTON JACKET

The G9 is the quintessential harrington jacket, made for wearing with your best shirt, jeans and boots combo.

£295, baracuta.com

2 TOPMAN GREEN CONTRAST STITCH DENIM JACKET

Denim can look sharp as hell. That stitching, those crisp lines... Wear it with tees, then over hoodies for a toastier, late-autumn vibe.

£50, topman.com

3 GUCCI FELT JACKET WITH BEE PATCH

Tip your hat to vintage American sportswear with Gucci's jacket, designed with soft-knit collar, cuffs and bottom, and that insta-recognisable bee applique.

£1,450, gucci.com/uk

4 UNIVERSAL WORKS BAKERS CHORE JACKET

This jacket offers enough warmth to keep chills at bay. Bonus: you can keep heaps of gadgets in those large patch pockets.

£299, universalworks.co.uk

5 MR P FLEECE ZIP-UP SWEATER

Plush and teddy bear-soft, you'll feel super-comfortable in Mr P's autumn-ready jacket, with raglan sleeves and a ribbed knit collar.

£175, mrporter.com

WHICH WATCH

THE HOTTEST TIMEPIECES RIGHT NOW

> NIXON TIME TELLER PUSHEAD

The Pushead is based on Nixon's bestseller, but features Metallica's iconic graphics, as well as neat details such as torq screw indices and a barbed seconds hand.

£110, metallica.com/store



> TRIWA VIVID KLINGA

Aiming to transform watches from status symbol to modern style symbol, TRIWA blends classic silhouettes with Scandinavian simplicity. This watch stands out with playful splashes of colour.

£149, triwa.com



> ALPINA ALPINERX

Alpina's newest watch is every outdoor lover's dream. As well as telling the time, it combines environmental and movement sensors to measure your activity and the environment around you.

£795, alpinawatches.com



DRESS LIKE**DAVID GANDY**

It's back-to-college time with one of the model's most accessible daytime looks

THE JACKET

Preppy style rarely goes out of fashion, so David's choice of a college bomber jacket is timeless and versatile, suiting both trousers to jeans. For a similar look, try the Virgin Wool-Blend and Leather Bomber by Golden Bear (£445, mrporter.com).

THE BOOTS

Choose a darker brown, rather than a light tan. David also opts for a shiny finish, and you can do the same by slipping into Cobb's Brown Leather Chelsea Boot (£125, cobblondon.com).

THE HAIR

David washes his hair with Aesop Classic Shampoo (£17, aesop.com/uk) for a thorough cleanse, then adds shine and shape with Kiehl's Creme with Silk Groom (£20, kiehls.co.uk).

**CUTTING IT CLOSE****PHILIPS SERIES 9000 PRESTIGE**

Your most comfortable (and costly) electric shave yet

The 9000 Series is Philips' high-end range of shavers, but if the new top-of-the-line Prestige model doesn't count as a 10000 Series, we don't know what will.

The blades are stronger and sharper, and have a new shape that's designed to pull your hair in deeper (painlessly!) before cutting, making for a noticeably closer shave. The results are truly impressive. It is genuinely difficult to tell the difference between the results of this razor and a traditional bladed razor. As the owners of particularly bristly and tough stubble, it was a step above even the very best other shavers we've tried.

The metal rings have an anti-friction coating that promises to make them better for sensitive skin too, and we did find that the closer shave didn't come with any extra irritation, though even with our (quite sensitive) skin, we didn't have a problem with a shave from other 9000 Series models anyway. You can choose from three intensity levels of shave just with a button press, in case you do need to treat your skin more gently (or hack through longer stubble, which it also excels at).

Simply, it's the best electric shave we've ever had, but it comes at an RRP of £450 (though you'll be able to find it for less). Wireless Qi charging is a great feature (and it comes with a pad), but the chrome-looking finish is just a look: it's plastic, which feels a bit cheap for the price, but it doesn't really matter when the shave is this good.

THE FINAL WORD The best shaver we've ever used, bar none. Cuts super-close and doesn't irritate.

★★★★★

MONEY NO OBJECT**Burberry Reversible Vintage Check Scarf**

Alongside camel-coloured macs and Emma Watson, Burberry is most famous for its classic check prints, making this AW18 Reversible Vintage Check Scarf an investment that'll live in your wardrobe for years to come. A longline design, Burberry's reinvented staple, made from fine cashmere, can be draped loosely over coats and sweaters, or wrapped tighter around your neck for a heftier, oversized look.

£550, uk.burberry.com



CAR RACKS AND BOXES



HOLLYWOOD EXPRESS 3-BIKE CAR RACK

Why hire bikes when you can take your own? This rack attaches to your car via six fastening straps for impressive stability, while rubber separators stop your bikes from getting scratched. **£55.99, tredz.co.uk**



THULE WAVE SURF RACK/WINGBAR 963

No self-respecting surf dude (yes, we're cool) wants their board to get damaged in transit. Featuring four rubber cradles and taut straps, the Wave Surf Rack provides optimum protection – and the WingBar it attaches to packs drag-reducing tech for improved fuel economy. **£75/£93 for two, thule.com**



KAMEI 330 ROOF BOX

With room for six skis (although feel free to cram it with pants, socks, booze... whatever), a secure locking system and a chiselled, impact-resistant build, the Kamei 330 will keep anything you store up there safe and sound. **£289.95, roofbox.co.uk**



SEASON PASS

THE BEST ALL-WEATHER RIDES

Give inclement weather the cold shoulder with an SUV that'll keep you rock solid on the road in any season

Unless you want to recreate Torvill and Dean's Bolero on the slippery roads this autumn and winter, you need to think about buying a motor that can cope with adverse conditions. Of course, Land Rover has been building all-weather vehicles for donkey's years, so you'd expect its latest Discovery Sport (from £30,145, landrover.co.uk) to take this kind of stuff in its stride. And it does, boasting dedicated 'Mud' and 'Snow' modes that apply exactly the right amount of power to maximise traction on unforgiving surfaces, as well as tyres that are wider and grippier than a bouncer's arms.

Subaru may not be the first marque that springs to mind when you think about

no-nonsense vehicles, but the 2018 Outback (from £28,825, subaru.co.uk) laughs in the face of chilly climes, with all-wheel drive and impressive ground clearance, not to mention heated front seats as standard. Toasty.

Volvo's new V90 Cross Country all-wheel drive (from £41,350, volvocars.com/uk) takes no prisoners in cold weather, drawing upon a turbocharger and a supercharger to pummel its way out of trouble. And the latest iteration of Volkswagen's T-Roc (from £18,135, volkswagen.co.uk) combines a raft of smart safety features (emergency braking, accident avoidance and optional 4MOTION traction control) to boost your confidence when the frost bites.

Holiday swagger



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LUXURY FEATURE SPEAKERS



BANG & OLUFSEN BEOSOUND EDGE

B&O has reinvented the wheel for its new multi-room speaker, out this November. Using proximity sensors, the Edge will detect when you're approaching and switch itself on. You can then adjust the volume by rocking the speaker back and forth. **£TBC, bang-olufsen.com**

NENDO BUNACO SPEAKER

A collaboration between Bunaco and style studio Nendo, this soundbox relies upon the echo-reducing properties of its coiled beechwood build to produce omnidirectional acoustics that are as soothing as a Shiatsu massage. **€1,500 (£1,350), bunaco.co.jp**



PEOPLE PEOPLE TRANSPARENT SPEAKER

Bringing a new meaning to the phrase 'crystal-clear audio', this speaker enables you to observe its inner machinations while it pumps out your favourite tunes. There's also a mini version. **€800 (£746), eu.transparenspeaker.com**



BRIGHT IDEA

FRESH NEW WAYS TO LIGHT YOUR HOME THIS AUTUMN

Illuminate your house with the brightest lighting trends for autumn, from the latest smart lighting kits to showstopper pendants

Lighting is one of the easiest ways to create a specific mood at home, and smart lighting helps you achieve the right colour and intensity for any space. Throwing a party? Deck your walls in the new Nanoleaf Canvas (ETBC, nanoleaf.me), a modular lighting system comprising app-controlled LED panels. Cover your entire ceiling in them if you want to go totally disco.

Looking a bit grey? Let the new Philips Hue Adore Bathroom Ceiling Light (£179.99, meethue.com) cast a flattering glow on you, throwing out either a relaxing or energising

shade of light depending on whether you're bathing or showering.

Keep it cosy in bedrooms and living rooms with lanterns filled with LED string lights, arranged in clusters on mantelpieces or tables, or make a statement with a neon wall sign or a giant, showstopper pendant.

In the kitchen, why not embrace the industrial look with exposed bulbs, such as the Plumen 001 (£24.95, plumen.com)? Hang a series of them above your table for a statement light fixture that's bright enough to cook by, no matter how dark it is outside.

WI-FI WONDER

SUPER-FAST SMARTS

Hi-fi meets Wi-Fi with Netgear's groundbreaking mesh system and smart speaker combo

Like Simon Cowell throwing together his latest boyband, Netgear has taken a bunch of brilliant individual components and merged them into one world-beating smart-home kit. Ladies and gentlemen, give it up for the Orbi Mesh Wi-Fi System with Orbi Voice (£330, netgear.com), a genuinely exciting innovation that boasts a Harman Kardon-built Bluetooth speaker, a voice-enabled Alexa personal assistant and a trailblazing tri-band mesh Wi-Fi router. What does it mean? You can conduct all of your IoT shenanigans at lightning-fast speed from literally anywhere in the home. Now, that's what we call the X factor.



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THREE GREAT CAMERAS TO (BACK)PACK



POLAROID MINT 2-IN-1 CAMERA

Polaroid's backpacker-friendly latest launch is both a camera and printer, and added extras include an integrated selfie mirror and a self-timer. Printing is easy – choose an effect, add a frame and press the shutter button to get an instant ZINK print. **£119.99, argos.co.uk**



SONY HX99

Snapping an eagle over Machu Picchu will be a breeze with the world's smallest high zoom (24–720mm) compact. Add stabilisation and a tiltable touch screen and your photos will be ready for National Geographic. **£450, sony.co.uk**



CANON POWERSHOT G7X MARK II

Unleash your creativity with this fantastic compact – a one-inch sensor, bright f/1.8–2.8 Canon lens and superior DIGIC 7 provide the power of a DSLR without the bulk. A great option if you'll be taking both stills and videos. **£539.99, canon.co.uk**



PACK IT IN

THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR BACKPACKING DESTINATIONS

Jet-setting travel writer Tamara Hinson selects three destinations which should be on every backpacker's radar

It's a great time to show Indonesia some love – last August's earthquakes had a devastating impact, although the damage was mostly limited to northern Lombok. Additionally, the government recently announced extra investment in 10 lesser-known destinations, including the tropical paradise of Morotai island. And don't forget Indonesia's capital, Jakarta – now regarded as a destination in its own right. Head here for delicious food and its fantastic jazz scene. Visit indonesia.travel/gb to find out more about the options there.

South America has always been popular with backpackers, and new routes offered

by airlines such as LATAM (latam.com) make it easy to hop from one country to the next. We'd recommend starting with Peru – clamber up to Machu Picchu before heading to Lake Titicaca. From there it's a short hop to Bolivia, which has the world's highest capital, La Paz.

Closer to home, Eastern Europe – including Estonia, Poland and Eastern Germany – is ideal for backpackers on a budget, and great road and rail connections make it easy to get around. 2018 marked the 100th anniversary of Poland regaining independence, so it's a great time to raise a late toast to this fantastic country.



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An ultra-lightweight (800g) and super-snug choice for exercising outdoors, the Apex Flex GTX with mountain-colour styling keeps you dry thanks to a three-layer Gore-Tex shell. A soft-knit face and stretch knit backer delivers the comfort of a soft hoodie. **£250, thenorthface.co.uk**



CANADA GOOSE MEN'S RIVERHEAD JACKET

This Canada Goose favourite is designed with a three-layer outer to protect you from wind, sleet and rain. It also features underarm venting to dispel excess heat. **£495, canadagoose.com/uk**



COLUMBIA OUTDRY EX PLATINUM SHELL

According to Columbia, OutDry Extreme is the first fabric technology constructed with a waterproof layer on the outside and soft wicking inside. This essentially means that water vapor can escape without letting water into the jacket. **£150, columbiasportswear.co.uk**



RACE DAY

SUPERCHARGE YOUR TRIATHLON TRAINING

How the pro triathletes keep sharp in all
three different events during the darker months

Training for a triathlon during autumn/winter is physically taxing, so it's important to arm yourself with the right gear and diet. Many pros supplement outdoor training with indoor setups, an approach taken by Bex Rimmington, Team WNT Pro Cycling rider, Ironman competitor and Specialised Triathlon Team Member for Zwift.

Bex's gear includes the Zwift app-based fitness platform (zwift.com), which helps you train properly indoors, combined with a Wahoo 2018 KICKR Smart Trainer (£999, uk.wahoofitness.com) indoor bike trainer.

"With the weather so unpredictable, Zwift is a way to continue your training," says Bex.

Diet is also important. "Eat the right things to ensure you're performing to the best of your ability, and to aid recovery," says Bex. "And practise eating your pre-evening race meal before training sessions." If you need a hit of energy on triathlon day, Bex recommends Clif Bar Shot Bloks (£13.49, clifbar.co.uk). And Body Glide Anti-Chafe Balm (£6.99, evanscycles.com) comes in handy: "It helps minimise chafing and prevents wetsuit rubs and blisters."

FITNESS BUDDY

HACK YOUR HEALTH

This pocket-sized 'metabolism hacker' aims to help you lose
weight more easily with personalised meal plans

Losing weight usually involves eating less and moving more. Lumen, a new health startup, wants to make hitting your goal weight a much easier process. The breathalyser-style device uses tech based on Respiratory Quotient (RQ) to measure your metabolism and whether you're burning fat or carbs. Lumen translates that data into a food plan, suggesting meals to optimise your energy levels. It'll also take into account your previous night's sleep, and your day's activity, to show how they affect your ability to lose or maintain weight.



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Julian Lennon



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Q

GRACE STOCK, CROYDON

Can I make my Blu-ray player multi-region?

A It's rare that Guru paints the age of DVD to be the good old days, but damn, this used to be so easy. Bash in a cheat code on the remote, select the appropriate option from the hidden menu, and you're an international disc wizard, Harry. Not anymore. GaGu knows a couple of BD players equipped with shortcuts, but you probably haven't got one. The rest are stubbornly adhering to the Blu-ray Consortium's rules, which basically state that if you want to license the tech, you'd better not include a multi-region option.

There is good news to go with the bad. Blu-ray simplifies the

region encoding standards, splitting the world into three (rather than DVD's nine) nebulous districts, meaning you're more likely to be able to shop around for discs that'll work with your particular player. Disc creators, also, aren't quite as beholden to the standards as the hardware boys – many releases are encoded for multi-region play.

Blu-ray simplifies the region encoding standards, splitting the world into three rather than DVD's nine nebulous districts

ABOVE

Ah, the heady days of getting Region 1 DVDs of US TV shows off eBay ahead of their UK release

There are devices which you can solder in yourself. These work with many players to bypass firmware legitimacy checks; once you've installed your own firmware, you're free to play whatever you like. These add-ons can be hardware specific, so hunt one down yourself.

But! Hold your horses, because there's one weird trick that Blu-ray Region Cops hate. If you're trying to play a disc and get the red 'region locked' screen, simply whack the 'Top Menu' button. Often (although it'll depend on the disc and the player) this will bypass the screen and get you straight to the action. But no promises.

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPHEN KELLY

SEND YOUR QUESTIONS TO: INBOX@T3.COM OR [FACEBOOK.COM/T3MAG](https://www.facebook.com/T3MAG)

**H. HOSKIN, HANTS.**

Should I get a mesh network for my home?



Although Guru has definitely paid one of his 'visits' to your house while you were sleeping, he had a decent 4G connection at the time so didn't think to sniff around for Wi-Fi black spots. So answering this very specific question that relates only to you will have to be done (usefully for GaGu's other readers, whose houses he has also been in) in the broadest strokes possible.

Consideration one: Are there bits of your house where you don't get good Wi-Fi? Have you already moved your existing router, dodging shelves full of knick-knacks and reflective walls to ensure it's belching that signal out at maximum velocity? Have you harassed your ISP for the latest version of their bundled router? You could solve your own problem with no investment necessary.

Consideration the second: How important are blazing network speeds and consistent router

SSIDs? If you don't mind taking a little hit, powerline systems like the TP-Link TL-PA4010KIT Nano (£26) can be had for little money, and will pipe those packets through your walls at reasonable speed as long as your house wasn't wired up by a slightly scorched drunkard with a self-inflicted tic. Sticking an old router on the end as a secondary network can work, or there are powerline slash Wi-Fi combos (try the Devolo dLAN 500 for £50) that do the job without extra nonsense.

GaGu does recognise the luxury of mesh, though, and the speed. Guru Towers' extensive square footage, and Mrs Guru's demand for 4K streams in odd rooms, necessitates the use of the silly-expensive but really good Netgear Orbi (around £300 for two nodes) at home. But there are cheaper systems like the three-node £170 BT Whole Home that offer good results without the credit card people asking awkward questions.

**ABOVE**

This illustration idea seemed a lot less existentially horrifying in the planning stages

**CHERRY RED, BY EMAIL**

How can I increase my focus on work?



What's that? Sorry, Guru was just watching a YouTube video about luminous fish. Oh, your question. Hold on, let ol' GaGu just go grab a sandwich and a drink. That garden's looking a bit rough, isn't it? Maybe we should get out there after a procrastinate, and maybe a couple of hours on the Xbox.

Seriously, though: the Pomodoro technique works reasonably well for GaGu when he can be bothered to employ it. Basically it consists of a number of timed bursts of work with enforced breaks built in between. There are loads of phone apps and browser plugins to help with it, or you could set your own sprint goals with any old timer. Just put a little pressure on yourself, and make sure there's a pleasant reward when you're done.

Lighting is also said to help. Using a smart bulb (LIFX's range of standalone lights are ideal, and don't require a base station) that can mimic daylight in your work room should help you focus.

GADGET GURU'S MAGIC BOX

GaGu's semi-anonymous game streaming exploits are proving little more than a reminder of his increasing age, but it's a good excuse to invest in more tech. A nice Blue YetiCaster bundle (a £170 combo of Yeti USB mic, sturdy mounting arm and bump-dodging shock mount), an Elgato Game Capture HD60 (£160) to suck in misplays from his consoles, and a cheap Amazon green screen (GaGu paid £26, stands and all) to cover up his messy office. There will likely be more. There's always more. As soon as Guru gets his teeth into any stupid hobby, the upgrade train only stops when his attention wanders.

Now that the weather has cooled its jets, and going for a run is not a fifty-fifty chance of Guru sweating himself to death, a little wrist upgrade has been in order. GaGu's

faithful Pebble Time has been working fine with the help of Rebble's third-party web services (rebbe.io). But

it's not enough. Guru's Stockholm syndrome has led him to pop down a pre-order on Fitbit's Charge 3 (£129), which looks great and even works in the pool.

The youngest members of Guru's household (not counting GaGu Jr's blasted hamster) have each started compiling their lists for Santa. Included are the dinky Boxer robot (£80, looks neat), a VTech Fantasy Unicorn (£50), the mildly terrifying Finglerlings Hugs (£30, pictured) which can record your voice and, er, kiss you, and a two-pack of Nerf LaserOps guns (£50), which Mrs Guru disapproves of but Ol' GaGu can't wait to get blasting with.



NEW MEDIA

NOW PLAYING

Guru finds the finest media you need on your various screens



INTO THE BREACH

This brilliant turn-based strategy game puts you in control three giant mechs, protecting the world against giant monsters. It's a perfect fit on Nintendo Switch.



BE THE COWBOY - MITSKI

We're lapped up every album from Mitski since the release of 2016's dazzling *Puberty 2*. Her new album is her best yet, examining self-worth and fame against beautiful indie pop.



THE INNOCENTS

Say hello to Netflix's ghostly new show *The Innocents*. Two love-struck teens plan to elope, but there's a problem: she's a shapeshifter who can assume the form of anyone she touches.

Q PETER MUIR, STROUD

How can I learn to code?

A Guru's Raspberry Pi, in addition to being used to run illicitly-obtained retro games, is used for a lot of Python experimentation. If he were to recommend any language to start with it'd be that. Why? Because, realistically, everything you might want to do has been done, and libraries for all of those functions exist. Plug one in without any of those tedious construction phases.

Python also benefits from a vast amount of documentation online. For kids, or software dum-dums, something like Scratch (also on the Pi) is perfect, or try Javascript if you don't want to buy any new hardware. Check out The Coding Train on YouTube for tutorials.

Q DAVE GREEN, WOLVERHAMPTON

Can you help me cook rice?

A You're boiling it in an open pot, right? Oh you poor, unfortunate soul. Good rice is, essentially, steamed, not blasted into a starchy blob. You can do this with a tightly covered pot: one measure of rice to just under two measures of water, bring it up to the boil, stir once, whack on the lid, and simmer on a minimal heat for about 18 minutes. Leave it another five before taking the lid off.

If this is too much faff, and you like cluttering up your kitchen with gizmos, a proper rice cooker will give you even better results. GaGu would be tempted to import one from Japan, maybe a Zojirushi, but that's prohibitively expensive. VonShef's 1.8l steamer, at £25, doesn't have all the fancy functions, but it'll do the job just fine.

If you like cluttering up your kitchen with gizmos, you could import a proper rice cooker from Japan, such as a Zojirushi



ABOVE

All you need to see *The Matrix* is a Raspberry Pi. Much easier than Neo's whole deal

Q TERRY YATES, BLACKPOOL

How can I get my gadgets cheaper?

A Guru's usual tactic is to hand full control of his finances over to someone more sensible, then fight through the gauntlet whenever he wants a new toy. You may be better served by simply employing patience; everything fluctuates in price.

GaGu's top tips are to bid on eBay with the amount you're willing to pay and leave it at that – you'll get some hits, and won't overspend – and to use Amazon snoopers CamelCamelCamel to alert you when those things you so want drop in price. Don't forget to install the Camelizer plugin to show you historical prices while you browse.

Don't miss another instalment of the legendary Gadget Guru!

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See p94

Duncan Bell is upgrading

Apple's fiendish genius means I simply must give them another £1,000... and that's fine!

Pride comes before a fall, they say, but I discovered this month that, not for the first time, 'they' are incorrect. Pride actually comes before a *drop*.

Picture the scene: I'm holding forth on phone cases to a transfixed audience. Obviously by 'transfixed audience' I mean, 'my work colleagues, on Whatsapp-for-business, self-satisfied software quirk farrago, Slack.'

I say, "I don't need a phone case. *Nobody* needs a phone case. I pay loads of money for a mobile that's been designed and engineered by some of the greatest creative minds of our time, then lavishly hand-crafted by people on minimum wage in China. Why would I shroud it in a case? Using a case is a sign of a weak mind. Do you know what I do? I just don't drop my phone."

So, obviously, the next day, I dropped my iPhone 6S (yes, yes, I know) – from a height of about 12 inches, onto a table, I might add – and the screen was smashed to buggery, and smithereens.

But here's a curious thing. This was a seemingly innocuous drop that led to a cracked iPhone screen, a loss of volume from the speaker and, for all I know, all manner of other unseen, internal ruin. AND IT HAPPENED EXACTLY TWO WEEKS BEFORE THE LAUNCH OF THE NEW IPHONES.

Upgrade cycle blues

Now, I'm not going to outright say that Apple used its infinite resources and advanced technology to remotely make my iPhone screen smash so I'd have to consider upgrading to a phone from the current decade. *But you wouldn't rule it out, would you?*

I have written many times in my career about Apple, sometimes seriously, sometimes not. It's not like the ingrates ever invite me to their events, or send me free samples of their overpriced baubles for socially inadequate product sponges. But hey! I'm not bitter about it. I rise above those petty emotions. And continue to buy Apple's stuff.

And with my old iPhone lying in tatters, piteously crying for its blessed end, I am going to go and buy a brand-new one. Here's why: as irritating as Apple events might be; as creepy as I might find their spokespersons, its products are bloody great.

And I say that even after being forced, for professional reasons, to

I'm not going to say that Apple used its infinite resources to smash my phone's screen, *but...*

sit through the new iPhone launch stream. Of course, it was all hype, 'magic', nonsense claims, marginal gains, and awkward old Silicon Valley guys in crap shirts and dad jeans... All the usual brickbats you could throw at such an event.

What I mainly came away thinking was, "Great phones. Hmm, I need a new phone. I'll get one."

At this point in time, smartphone buyers are no more likely to switch from Android to Apple than people

in the Cotswolds are liable to vote Labour, or those in north London, Tory. These events aren't about attracting new punters so much as shoring up the core audience, Trump- or Putin-style. Maybe that's a bad analogy.

We tech journalists always report these phone launches in the same way, in the same language, to people who are interested in tech, who 'get it'. It always goes like this: "There was a lack of innovation... Iterative upgrades... No surprises... Cupertino... God, I'm depressed... Slightly faster processor... Sigh."

Then people who'd never buy an iPhone say, "Apple is finished, get an Android phone." Well, fair enough. I've never found an Android phone I could get on with, and I have tried, but I accept not everyone thinks the same as me. Crazy, I know.

Here's what anyone who is *actually in the market for an iPhone* thinks: "It's like what I've already got, but a bit better. Do I want to use incredibly advanced AI and camera tech to transform myself into a talking turd Animoji in Facetime chats? No, of course not. But I love the familiarity of everything else, and those phones look *slick AF*."

The rest of the Apple 'lifestyle', the slightly desperate way it presents itself, I can do without. The actual *stuff* remains awesome.







WELCOME TO THE T3 AWARDS 2018

Words: Matt Bolton, Becca Caddy, Alex Cox Photography: Neil Godwin

The tech world is broader than ever, and so are this year's T3 Awards. We've carefully selected the best of the best tech from our shortlists in 50 categories – these are the products that blew us away with their innovation, ingenuity and sheer quality

In association with



INNOVATION OF THE YEAR



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Amazon Echo Show

Adding a screen and camera to a voice assistant may seem like a backwards step, but it introduces another important bit of flexibility to this product. Now, it can show you videos to answer your various questions, enable you to video call someone, and it can display a five-day forecast in less time than it would take to read. It makes smart assistants useful in completely new ways, and that's an important innovation for their future.

**DJI MAVIC AIR**

This folding drone changed the game by bringing brilliant, pro-level features to a drone that's affordable for your average Joe. Its 4K 60fps camera is broadcast quality, and captures super-smooth footage thanks to being mounted on a 3-axis gimbal. Even better, the Mavic Air can fly itself and avoid obstacles using assorted AI and tracking tech, so you don't have to monitor what it's seeing – it just follows what you're doing and takes great footage, no effort required.

**OCULUS GO**

The Oculus Go is the first standalone virtual reality headset, and an innovation that could push VR into the mainstream market. It has the screen, processor and everything else built in, so all you need to do is put on the headset and dive into a game, no PC required. It makes VR something you can do on impulse, which is especially ideal for VR video. Soon it will be totally natural to hear about a cool event you missed, and to then just pop on a headset to 'visit' it in VR.

**LIGHT L16**

Sick of seeing photos that didn't come out quite the way you had hoped? Or how about blurred shots and bad lighting? You don't have to put with it any longer... The L16 takes every snap using 16 different lenses, then combines them into one super file. When you edit it, you have even more control. For example, you can change which parts of the image are in focus on your computer, rather than on your camera. Imagine never taking a bad shot ever again? The tech is here.

**BROMPTON ELECTRIC**

The first ebike from the folding legends has been worth the wait. It's super-lightweight, folds tinier than its rivals, and has some clever smarts for getting the most from its battery pack. The Brompton Electric auto-adapts to your cycling too, so it delivers extra assistance when you need it and conserves power when you don't. The battery charges fast and sits in a bag on the front when you're cycling. This makes it easy to remove for plugging in and recharging while you're at work.

**SMARTER FRIDGECAM**

Fit this camera into your existing fridge and you'll be able to tap into its live feed whenever you need to check whether you've got enough milk or veggies before you hit the supermarket. It's a simple gadget, sure, but if it means you can pop into the shops on the way home from work instead of making unnecessary extra trips, it could save you hours (and pounds). Time is the hardest thing to claw back, so the FridgeCam could become invaluable to your everyday life.

BEST TV

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sony AF8

A further refinement of last year's A1 (also a T3 Award winner), which tightens up every aspect of the telly: the screen-vibrating sound is better, there's a return to a classic design aesthetic, and the picture quality is amazing thanks to the exemplary X1 Extreme picture processor. All this combines to make the AF8 the very best TV you can buy.

T3

HIGHLY COMMENDED



LG OLED C8

Imbued with the slick power of webOS, and run by the same Alpha 9 chip that backs up the rest of LG's current 4K OLED offerings, the LG OLED C8 is a masterclass in TV design. It's super-sharp, upscales perfectly, and it's fast enough to handle all of your twitch gaming too.



PHILIPS OLED 803

Marking the debut of Philips' second-gen P5 Processing Engine, the OLED 803 combines a neat, minimalist design with some very impressive HDR pictures. Thanks to the inclusion of its Android OS, it has Google Assistant on board as standard. Handy.



PANASONIC FZ952

Panasonic's picture quality in the FZ952 is just about unrivalled at the moment. It's a real treat to watch it in action, even when you're using the game mode, and the addition of booming, Technics-tuned speakers could mean you consign your old soundbar to the bin.



SAMSUNG Q9F

You want colour? Well, you've come to the right place. Samsung's QLED tech shines in this top-end screen, particularly coupled with its support for HDR10+ and the company's own Q HDR EliteMax, an exclusive HDR mode that exploits those perfect pixels for maximum vibrancy.

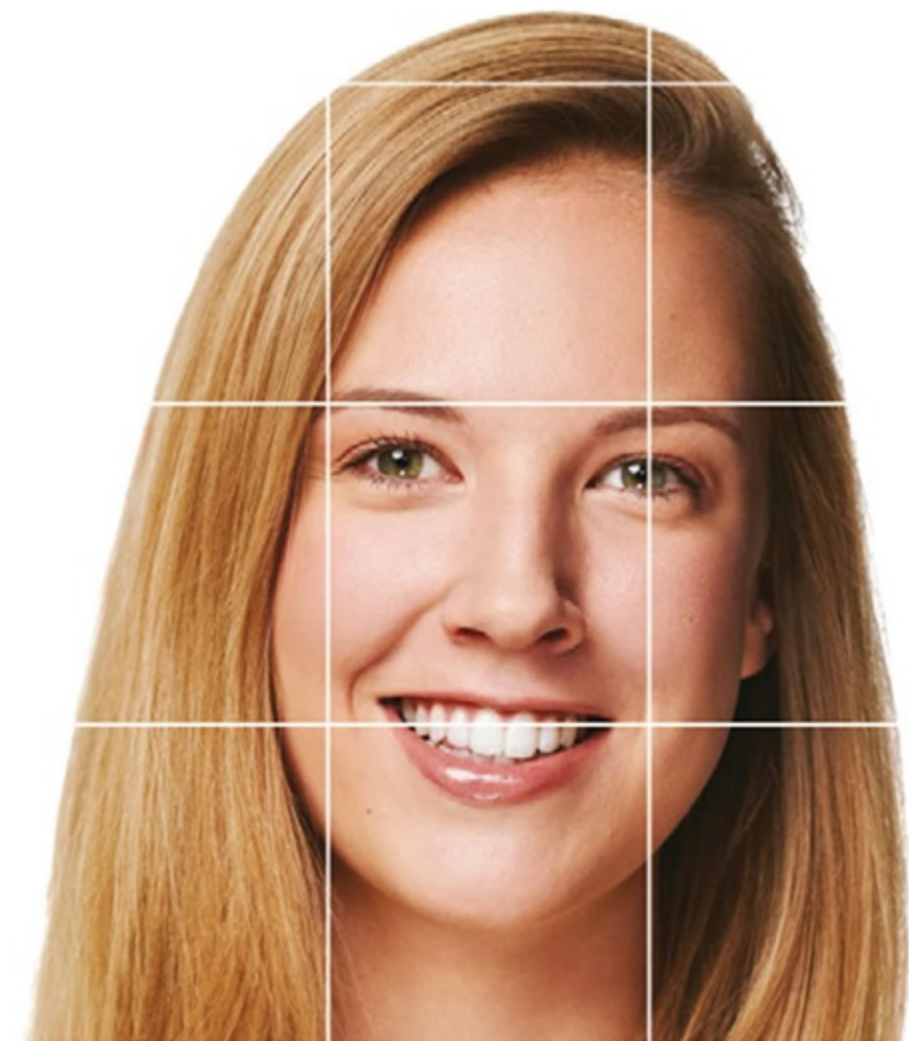


HISENSE U7A

China's breakout brand might come in cheaper than its rivals, but the Hisense U7A is still a true performer. The 4K image of this FIFA-branded telly is very strong, there's meaty sound, and (rather fittingly) the TV will auto-detect when sports are playing onscreen.



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shell.co.uk/careers #makethefuture

BEST TV AUDIO PRODUCT



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sonos Beam

Compact size, compact price, but there's nothing compact about the Beam's soundstage. It's rich, loud, and connects with the rest of Sonos' speakers (as you'd expect) and AirPlay 2 for plenty of multiroom options. Alexa and support adds suitable smarts, and compatibility with more assistants is promised.



FOCAL SIB EVO DOLBY ATMOS 5.1.2

Platinum-award-winning Atmos audio, cramming world-class sound into a compact projecting package that fills the room with sound without filling it with hardware. Even the subwoofer is small, but it makes a big noise.



SONY HT-ST5000

A powerful 800W soundbar, with a huge array of speakers lined up in such a way that it fires a wholly reasonable 7.1.2 Dolby Atmos soundscape around the room. The trick works. It sounds great, and the bass is astonishing.



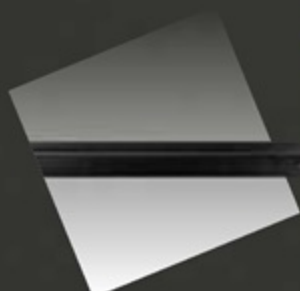
SAMSUNG HW-K950

Another Atmos-rocking soundbar, with neat extra features alongside its array of speakers—try the Surround Sound Expansion Plus mode to upscale bland soundtracks to 5.1.4. You can also use it with Samsung's multiroom system.



Q ACOUSTICS M2

This soundbase incorporates the sub into the main unit to save a whole wedge of space. Far cheaper than many of its competitors, it's a total steal given its sumptuous sound and many connectivity options.



SAMSUNG HW-MS650

Ready for wireless rear speakers to take it from 3.0 to 5.0, this soundbar manages wall-shaking bass without a subwoofer. It's an impressive sound, with wide dispersion cones that extend the sweet spot throughout the room.



POLK COMMAND BAR

You can't miss Polk's big selling point: it's packing Alexa, with permission from Amazon to ape the design of the top of the Echo. Using the voice assistant to control the appropriately dialogue-friendly soundbar is a breeze.



Klipsch® HERITAGE *Inspired*



April 2018

the Sixes

Klipsch Heritage Inspired incorporates a luxurious classic design and high fidelity acoustic technologies inspired by Klipsch's prestigious Heritage range. Forget the clutter, hassle and added expense of a receiver or amplifier. This gorgeous pair are powered by an integrated high-output 200W amplifier, and can efficiently deliver accurate room-filling sound.

The Sixes suit all means, be it analogue or digital. Equipped with an integrated phono pre-amp, Bluetooth wireless technology, and a plethora of other inputs. These speakers are not only stunning, but also intelligent.

For more information visit www.henleyaudio.co.uk



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BEST TV PLATFORM



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sky Q

Nobody is bringing tech to the TV table as advanced as Sky's offering. The Sky Q box supports Ultra HD content, Dolby Atmos, voice search, advanced multiscreen, and a laundry list more – along with Sky's extensive list of channels. It's TV 2.0.

FreeviewPlay

FREEVIEW PLAY

Seven-day catchup, on-demand viewing, and 15 HD channels, all for free? Sign us up! Or don't. That's the beauty of it.

Virgin TV

VIRGIN MEDIA TV

The rollout of the 4K-capable V6 box has made Virgin a slicker, cooler platform, with a great channel lineup.

BT TV

BT TV

Now adding support for services like Amazon Prime, BT TV is a solid option that doesn't require installation.

TalkTalk
For Everyone

TALKTALK

TalkTalk's TV means no renegotiating your contract to check out new channels – just go month by month.

BEST VIDEO STREAMING SERVICE

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
BBC iPlayer

Credit to the Beeb: it's putting a whole lot of weight behind its streaming service, even putting some series online before they've been broadcast. That and the fact that it gave us World Cup games in 4K was more than enough to convince the T3 jury.

NETFLIX

NETFLIX

You can't go wrong with streaming's biggest name. It has a library that's growing with 4K content every week.

prime video

AMAZON PRIME VIDEO

For what is ostensibly an add-on to Prime, Prime Video's library is generous, and its original shows very good.

NOW TV

NOW TV

Faultless convenience which challenges the TV model – Now TV gives you what you want, when you want it.

tvplayer

TVPLAYER

Free live TV streaming right from your laptop or phone, with on-demand archiving and lots of channels? Bang on.

Virgin media

VIRGIN TV ANYWHERE

Virgin's oft-ignored extra deserves a lot of credit. Taking your subscribed channels away from the TV is a boon.

BEST BLUETOOTH OVER- OR ON-EAR HEADPHONES

Considering these headphones are Bowers & Wilkins' debut in the noise-cancelling headphone bracket, they're absolutely incredible. The company's deep knowledge of audio shines through in the beautiful sound of this sequel to the awesome P7s, and switching on noise cancelling does nothing to squash it.



T3 AND THE WINNER IS...
Bowers & Wilkins PX

T3 HIGHLY COMMENDED



SONY WH-1000XM2

The WH-1000XM2's solid 30-hour lifespan and comfortable construction makes them a perfect candidate for consistent travel wear, and the customisable active noise cancelling (ANC) of these closed-back headphones seals the deal for us. Oh, and did we mention that they sound absolutely glorious, too?



BEATS STUDIO3

The presence of Apple's W1 chip means these brash headphones, sporting that classic Beat's style and punchy sound, pair and switch seamlessly with Apple devices (and have great connectivity with any other Bluetooth gear), and have plenty of staying power, lasting for up to 22 hours at a time recharges, even with ANC.



KEF PORSCHE DESIGN SPACE ONE BLUETOOTH

Porsche Design's influence make these a pinnacle of headphone physical design, as you might expect. They're bright and detailed-sounding, classy, super-sturdy, and comfortable to wear with generous padding on both the earpads and the headband – perfect for hours of listening.



MARSHALL MID ANC

There's something deeply satisfying about the retro styling of Marshall's amp-for-your-head headphones, and you'll find similar satisfaction in the sound of the Mid, a warm and punchy mix that's equally suited to just about any kind of music, and which even works well under its active noise cancelling mode.



AKG N60NC WIRELESS

Where others might primarily push the highs, lows, or both, AKG knows that well-worked EQ matters, packing a truly balanced sound into the affordable aluminium-accented N60NC headphones. Even at a lower price, the noise cancelling works well and the cans' battery lasts for a decent 15 hours before it needs recharging.

BEST BLUETOOTH IN-EAR HEADPHONES

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Bose SoundSport Free



Realistically, completely wireless headphones shouldn't sound this good. But Bose's wizardly touch has worked its usual magic, and these are among the best-sounding ear buds we've ever heard, let alone those with two comfortable, open-designed independent modules. They make everything else sound bad.

T3

HIGHLY COMMENDED



FLARE AUDIO FLARES PRO

Milled from Grade 5 Titanium, these aircraft-grade buds bring out the tiniest details in even the most complex audio, and feel sturdy enough to absorb a lot of punishment. The option of Bluetooth or 3.5mm operation is neat, too.



JABRA ELITE 65T

True wireless earbuds, with a classy design that sits well in the ears. Backing up that tight noise isolation is adjustable ambient noise, which works well. So you can listen, or pretend you're listening, without taking them out.



OPTOMA NUFORCE BE SPORT4

Water resistance is a key feature of sport headphones, and Optoma's sweatproof buds do it just right. They won't fall out of your ears, they bang out the audio, and you can switch out the wings to match your workout kit.



SENNHEISER MOMENTUM FREE

Easily stowed, stamina-filled on battery, and packing a hugely dynamic soundstage, Sennheiser's adjustable Momentum Free in-ear headset is easy to control and a breeze to wear, either in front of or behind the neck.



RHA MA650

Classic neckband styling means significant battery life, and the punchy output of the MA650s is perfect for working out. The incredibly low price tag isn't bad, either, considering the buds are sporting an all-aluminium construction. Nice.



SONY WF-1000X

Doing away with wires hasn't hurt the noise-cancelling WF-1000X buds, not even slightly. They're clear, consistent, and last long enough on battery, with a classy carry case that doubles as an on-the-go battery charging station.

BEST BLUETOOTH SPEAKER

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Audio Pro Addon C3



How many ways does the Addon C3 impress? From its easy-to-configure multiroom setup, to direct support for a stack of streaming services, it's just about the most flexible portable speaker out there, and its output completely blew us away. For a device this small, it has no business sounding this good. But it does.

T3 HIGHLY COMMENDED



UE MEGABLAST

Rarely does a name so brash dodge hyperbole so well: UE's waterproof device projects a pillar of noise that's loud and thick enough to keep a party rocking for as long as its wholly generous 16-hour battery lasts. And you can even cue up your next banger using your voice alone, thanks to built-in Amazon Alexa support.



BOOMBOCs

Some way between classic styling, hi-fi looks and, depending on your chosen finish, vintage guitar amplification. The BoomBocs is loud and substantial, a luggable wireless music box that can run for up to 20 hours between recharges – and there's a 3.5mm stereo jack for non-Bluetooth devices, too.



SONY LF-S50G

Nestling into any Google Home multiroom system (using Chromecast), and carrying Google Assistant along for the ride, this is a practical cylindrical speaker with an impressive 360-degree output. It even sports an LED clock, whose white digital illumination peeps through the speaker's fabric grille.



RUARK R7 MKIII

As much a statement centrepiece as it is an audio treat, Ruark's unique radiogram-style player scores with its premium wooden cabinet, neat removable puck-shaped remote, and support for a vast range of inputs, from wireless to optical. Best of all, it sounds as good as it looks – and it looks fantastic.



BOSE SOUNDLINK MICRO

Impossibly tiny, incredibly portable, the SoundLink Micro is the perfect speaker to pack for your travels – its integrated rubber strap making it easy to attach to bags, bikes or tent poles, and it's waterproof to IPX7. Sound quality is good for a device of its size, while the rechargeable battery lasts for up to six hours.

BEST MULTIROOM SPEAKER



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sonos One

With a compact footprint hiding a stupendous room-swaddling sound, the Sonos One is the quintessential multiroom speaker. Sonos' wireless protocol is well-seasoned and glitch free, and the company is upgrading the Alexa-compatible speaker with new support – like the recently-added AirPlay 2 – all the time. Fantastic stuff.



ORBITSOUND DOCK E30

So phone-friendly it's bordering on the ridiculous, the Dock E30 features a Qi charging circuit, a groove to prop up almost any handset or tablet, seamless multiroom support, and bass chops that'll make your furniture shake.



MARSHALL STANMORE MULTIROOM

A clear, versatile speaker which supports a heap of streaming protocols. Link it to the handsome app and multiroom is a breeze, while the preset dial helps you listen to what you want without touching your phone.



BLUESOUND PULSE MINI

Paired with a soundstage that's full of character, the Mini's compatibility with a host of hi-res formats and streaming services (with Ethernet, for maximum stability at high bitrates) makes it a great way to fill your whole home with sound.



APPLE HOMEPOD

If you've bought into the Apple ecosystem, the HomePod is a no-brainer. It sounds amazing, plays perfectly with AirPlay 2, and its extra features – specifically Siri and its ability to act as a HomeKit hub – add a lot of extra value.



CAMBRIDGE AUDIO YOYO L

As subtle in appearance as a speaker can be, the YoYo L is as well suited to acting as a TV sound source as it is to spreading music through your home. Its centre speaker and side-firing stereo ensure you get excellent coverage.



SONOS BEAM

Our award-winning soundbar might be best placed beneath a TV, but Sonos' sound-spreading smarts mean that putting one under every TV in your home, and enjoying your audio wherever you go, is an equally good option.

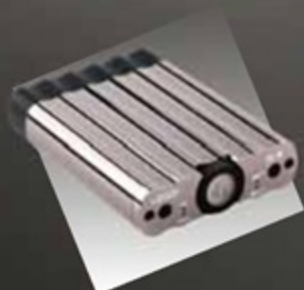
BEST HI-FI PRODUCT

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
KEF LS50 Wireless



■ We've never – never – heard a standalone audio system that sounds as good as KEF's wireless speakers. Without any sort of external amp or preamp needed, KEF has created a set of active speakers with bass that wows and a top end that can make your hair stand on end, with all the connectivity options that matter.



■ iFi xDSD

iFi's Bluetooth DAC can handle hi-res sources and MQA tracks. Whether through your speakers or your headphones (using iFi's Cyberdrive preamp) it's audio like you've never heard, with wireless convenience.



■ RUARK MR1 MK II WITH REGA P1 PACK

The fun-size MR1s are unreasonably good, besting most larger cone cabs with the richness, loudness, and clarity of their sound. Add the P1, and you have a full-on vinyl and wireless setup with an incredibly small footprint.



■ PRO-JECT JUKE BOX 3

Rarely does any company hit the mark as squarely as Pro-ject has with its Juke Box 3 turntable. Because it's also a phono stage. And an amp. And a preamp. And it's Bluetooth-connected – all you need to do is add speakers.



■ ASTELL & KERN KANN

Few pocket devices deserve a spot in any hi-fi setup, but A&K's hi-res player knows it's good enough, and has the line-level output to prove it. Bluetooth output with aptX HD beams crystal-clear tracks just as well.



■ CHORD QUTEST

Simple outwardly, yet otherworldly inside, the Qutest DAC will be the cutest addition you make to your audio setup, at least if you want to enhance your audio using a complex and precise processing engine with minimum fuss.



■ SWEETVINYL SUGARCUBE SC-1

Vinyl is, by its nature, imperfect. But you don't need to switch to a digital source; with the SugarCube, you can clean up those clicks and pops in real time, without losing the warmth and depth of analogue. A revelation.

TECH LEGEND

CRAIG CHARLES

For his work on *Red Dwarf*, *Robot Wars* and *The Gadget Show*, Craig is tech royalty. He's also been in *Coronation Street*, and is now one of the UK's top DJs, so his career has been nothing if not varied...

Craig began showbiz life doing a regular poet segment on a chat show (that's the 1980s for you). To readers of this mag he'll be best known as Dave Lister in *Red Dwarf*, and for hosting cybernetic '90s wrestle fest *Robot Wars* and, more recently, *The Gadget Show*. We called on Craig as he took a well-deserved break in Corfu, having DJed his Funk and Soul Show in Norwich and then Hyde Park over the two days before flying out. Our Tech Personality of 2018 was in typically relaxed and affable form...

T3: Hi Craig, the T3 Awards is at Ministry of Sound this year, do you want to DJ?

CC: Oh yeah, I'll bring me USB sticks along, heheh. I used to go to Ministry back when I lived in Vauxhall actually, when it was just a railway arch.

T3: You must be one of the most successful DJs in Britain at this point?

CC: It's going alright, yeah. I just try to give people a good time, playing music they haven't heard, or things they have heard but in a new setting. I try to 'educate, entertain and inform' – the full Reithian thing, very BBC. I play Friday and Saturday night every week of the year, and in summer, in festival season, Thursdays and Sundays too. But then when *The Gadget Show*'s on, we film that on Tuesdays.

T3: Crikey, what do you do Mondays? Hit the gym and drink Evian?

CC: Heheheheh. No. I sit on the sofa with me remote in me hand, and order my kids around. Although that's not going very well... I came home a few weeks ago and my daughter was home – school holidays – and I said, "Could you get us a glass of wine love,

I'm really knackered," and she said, "Dad, you know what? Playing music and talking shite, it's not really work, is it?" So I actually got up and got my own wine, to be honest. You can't fault that reasoning!

T3: You need a robot butler.

CC: [Sighs] Oh, wouldn't that be good.

T3: How did you wind up working on *The Gadget Show*? Have you always been a techy guy?

CC: I loved it! All the shows I've done have been really tech-heavy. There's *Red Dwarf*, I've done *Robot Wars*...

T3: That is a fairly specific branch of technology, to be fair...

CC: Well yeah, but the people on there, they were *really* into their tech. I mean, some of the stuff they were pulling out... just to be able to fit it into a 50kg machine, it was incredible. Of course, in *Red Dwarf* there's loads of tech, but on the show we're still using VHS. There you go, that's the future for you! So anyway, I used to watch *The Gadget Show*, I loved Jason Bradbury, and when Jason left the show and they approached me I was like, "Oh man!" I wanted to make it less of a geeky show and more of a show where I'm the

man saying, "Okay, I don't necessarily understand all this, but can you explain it to me and tell me, 1) how it works, and 2) is it worth buying?" 'Cos tech can be a bit like Northern Soul, where people can feel so intimidated about getting into it because there's so many people who get really anorak-y about it, the catalogue numbers and all that. Especially a lot of people of my age do need technology explaining to us. I don't mind looking thick so long as at the end of the day, I can buy a gadget I can fookin' use! We've tested quite a few things on the show where you're thinking, "Hang on, isn't this just a bit of a faff, man?" But then there's things where you think it's gonna be shite, but then it turns out to be really cool.

T3: What's your favourite gadget?

CC: I'm really into drones; those ones where you throw them up in the air and they just tear around following you, and don't crash into buildings. They're just incredible. There's this one they tested in Copenhagen that's like a drone, but it's a taxi. Drives you around, about 10 feet off the ground. That's the future, isn't it? Flying cars! But real ones, not like on *Tomorrow's World* in the '70s. They were lying bastards, heheheheh. *The Gadget Show* is like *Tomorrow's World*, but funky.

T3: Finally, tell us your favourite thing about working on *Red Dwarf*.

CC: Oh man, every year, my favourite moment is when we finish shooting the series. I love those guys, we're really close, but when you're cooped up with someone for that long doing a show, it's such a relief to get to the end and say, "See yer later you knobheads, I'm going home!" Heheheheheh.

"That's the future, isn't it? Flying cars! But real ones, not like on *Tomorrow's World* in the '70s. They were lying bastards, heheh. *The Gadget Show* is like *Tomorrow's World*, but funky"



BEST CONNECTED LIGHTING

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Philips Hue

Thanks to a simple setup, great app interface and 16 million colours, it's easy to see why Hue has become the most popular smart lighting system. Try out one of the starter packs before connecting up to 50 lights to the Hue Bridge. There's a range of styles to try, including beautiful bulbs and lamps, plus entertainment, outdoor and 'play' models.



T3 HIGHLY COMMENDED



LIFX

This easy-to-install lighting system prides itself on low-energy usage and a simple setup. The lightbulbs in the range look futuristic and serve up a huge range of colours. There are modular options too, including the Tile and Beam. Unlike the Hue range, LIFX works out of the box without a hub.



IKEA TRÅDFRI

Ikea's no-fuss smart light offering delivers a good quality of light and an easy setup with different fixings to choose from. You can control the lights via a remote, dimmer or motion sensor bulb. Although it's not the most advanced smart lighting system, it's intuitive and perfect for smart home beginners.



HIVE ACTIVE

A warm and dimmable smart light that taps into the Hive app and other Hive devices, enabling you to create actions and schedules. These long-lasting LED smart bulbs can be set-up in seconds, are energy efficient, and can provide personalised lighting solutions to any room in your house.

BEST CONNECTED SECURITY

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



The iQ Outdoor camera from Nest shoots in 4K and streams Full HD to your phone in real-time, providing some of the clearest footage we've seen from a security camera. Built-in person recognition ensures more accurate security notifications. It also comes with an upgraded speaker, a built-in microphone, and great night vision.



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Nest iQ Outdoor



HIVE VIEW

A super-stylish home security camera that's great for monitoring pets and relatives, the Hive View has a cheap monthly subscription (£4.99 per month) compared to some of its competitors, and offers either 720p HD or 1080p Full HD maximum streaming resolution, depending on the strength of your network connection.



NEST HELLO

The Nest Hello adds a wide-angle HD camera to your doorbell so you'll always know who's knocking, even if it's dark (hey, night vision). You can even get the Hello to send you a special alert when friends or relatives drop by, or to deliver a stock response when those pesky door-to-door salesmen start ringing your doorbell again.



BOSCH SMART HOME SECURITY STARTER KIT

Perfect for those who want to secure their smart home but don't know where to begin, this kit gives you the products you need to build your own security system from scratch. The catch-all kit comprises a smoke alarm, a motion detector, and a door and window sensor. Complete control comes via a smartphone app.



LOGITECH CIRCLE 2 WIRED

One of our favourite indoor home cameras, the Circle 2 Wired is versatile and easy-to-use. With two-way talking features, it's ideal for keeping an eye on children or elderly relatives, and you can control it via the dedicated app or with Amazon Echo, Apple Home, or a Logitech Pop smart home button.



NETATMO PRESENCE

The sophisticated image recognition tech in this security camera can differentiate between people, animals and cars, so no more false alarms. As it sports a waterproof body, it can be used outdoors too. It also offers infra-red night vision and a floodlight, so you can choose which to use. Set-up is easy, thanks to an intuitive interface.

THE WORLD'S LEADER IN VPN



ExpressVPN



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
TADOBEST CONNECTED
ENERGY PRODUCT

Beautifully designed outside and in, it's the seamless integration with air conditioning, individual radiator control for zonal home heating, and use of your location that we love most about Tado's sleek thermostat system – and it'll work (and save you money) no matter what hardware you have installed.

NEST THERMOSTAT

Nest's circular controller is the beating heart of its smart ecosystem. It's attractive, accurate and full of options.

HIVE

Hive's lineup keeps getting bigger and better, and setting up actions in its app means you'll save energy with absolutely no effort.

DRAYTON WISER

Wiser breaks the smart home down into smart rooms, and we love its simple, useable granular options for temperature control.

BEST HOME
NETWORKING TECHAMPLIFI HD MESH
ROUTER SYSTEM

The circular screen makes for great network feedback, and its plug-in nodes are about the most subtle mesh devices going.

DEVOLO DLAN 1200
TRIPLE PLUS

Dragging powerline communications beyond gigabit speeds, this is the easiest way to install blazing fast wired networking at home.

TP-LINK ARCHER C5400 V2

Just an excellent router all-round; powerful over 5GHz, compatible with Alexa, automatable with IFTTT, and to cap it off it's super-simple to initially set up.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
NETGEAR ORBI 2018

The excellent Orbi offers up well-appointed mesh Wi-Fi that somehow provides great signal even at the very fringes of its broadcast range, with a killer app, super-fine customisation options and Disney's Circle parental controls to ensure your users behave themselves.

ASUS RT-AC86U
GAMING ROUTER

Mesh-compatible, super secure, and with some of the best quality of service routines in the business, the RT-AC86U is perfect for gaming.

NETGEAR NIGHTHAWK PRO
GAMING XR500

Netgear's aggressive router blasts through walls with incredible speed, and its DumaOS interface is absolutely top of the line.

BEST SMART HOME TECH

Amazon's Echo range has consistently impressed us, and the Echo Spot may be the best yet, thanks to its good-looking design, compact size and handy 2.5-inch screen. You can use the dinky smart speaker to make video calls, watch videos, get weather updates, and much more. And with Alexa built-in, it really is the ideal compact addition to any room.



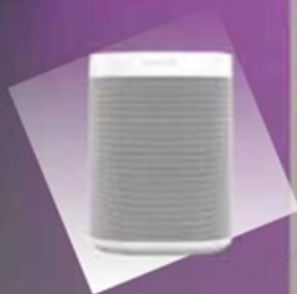
T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Amazon Echo Spot



GOOGLE HOME MINI

The Google Home Mini is both small and compact, which means that it fits anywhere and looks good everywhere. It also has Google Assistant smarts, as well as Bluetooth and Wi-Fi built-in. It's a great addition to your growing smart home, especially if you're already a fan of Google products.



SONOS ONE

Ideal for audiophiles, the Sonos One brings exceptional sound quality to your home, with added smarts courtesy of Alexa integration (with support for more assistants coming soon). A must for those who want the benefits of a voice assistant as well as rich, multi-room audio.



APPLE HOMEPOD

Already in love with the Apple ecosystem and its reliable smart assistant Siri? Then the HomePod is the smart speaker for you. It delivers amazing sound quality across many genres of music, plus super-accurate voice command recognition. All that, with a sleek-looking, minimalist design to boot.



AMAZON ECHO SHOW

Another nomination for the popular Echo line... The Show is a wonderful new twist on Amazon's previous Echo devices because of its 7-inch touchscreen. It's ideal for viewing videos when cooking, for example, and for keeping an eye on the weather when you're still lounging in bed.



SONOS BEAM

The latest soundbar from Sonos, the Beam is compact enough to be attached to any TV and delivers fantastic audio to your living room. It's Alexa-enabled, so you can control it with your voice, and it plays nicely with the rest of the Sonos ecosystem, as well as Apple's AirPlay 2.

BEST LAPTOP

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Microsoft's hardware division is on fire right now, and this sublime 2-in-1 is the proof. The Surface Book 2 works just as well as a tablet as it does with its keyboard module attached and running as a full-blown laptop. It's outrageously powerful, outwardly luxurious, and monumentally versatile. If you can find one, buy one. You won't regret it.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Microsoft Surface Book 2



DELL XPS 13

The latest refresh of Dell's ultra-compact laptop line somehow makes things even better, with an improved InfinityEdge display, Dell Cinema upgrades to colour depth, streaming fidelity and audio, and an even thinner aluminium unibody that rarely gets hot thanks to new, improved cooling tech. It's all kinds of impressive.



ASUS ZENBOOK UX310UA

Gorgeously finished in brushed aluminium, with an ultrabook frame that doesn't sacrifice ports, the UX310UA is a stunning little laptop. It ducks way under the XPS 13's price, and it's swish. colour-optimised screen can reach as far as QHD (3,200 x 1,800 pixels) if you pick the right option. Harman Kardon speakers seal a very sweet deal.



HP ENVY X2 4G

Brilliantly lithe and extremely capable, HP's perfectly portable 2-in-1 impressed us with its 4G mobile data connection and incredible battery life, lasting for up to 20 hours between recharges in our real-world tests. It also does a remarkable job for a laptop running full Windows 10 S on a lowly mobile Snapdragon chipset. We love it.



APPLE MACBOOK PRO WITH TOUCH BAR

Apple keeps pouring on the power while shaving millimetres from the MacBook Pro's already-slimline form, making the latest gen MacBook an excellent update to what was already a fantastic design. This latest version offers an even quieter keyboard, plus a True Tone display for achingly accurate colours.



LENOVO YOGA 920

Just one look at the Yoga's watchband hinge tells you all you need to know: this is a supremely engineered convertible, made from premium materials. That, and it works as well as a tablet as it does in laptop mode. Those high standards continue inside, with an eighth-gen Intel Core processor and up to 15 hours of battery life.

SPONSORED BY



FAST, STYLISH & POWERFUL

Fall in love with the HP laptop from AO.com that's an amazing all-rounder



If you're tapping away on an old laptop, you're missing out on some incredible advances. Over the last few years, technology has transformed laptops both inside and out.

We're talking about a revolution. Screens have become incredibly sharp and beautiful to look at; some are touchscreens, and some can twist and turn into tablets. Apps launch instantly and files appear in a flash thanks to super-speedy SSD storage. The latest Intel® processors deliver truly incredible performance in even the most demanding apps and games. And the bulky batteries of the bad old days are long gone. Cutting-edge laptops such as HP's next-generation thin and light laptops are incredibly slim but deliver amazing battery life.

That means you don't have to compromise. You can have productivity and portability, performance and creativity all in one device. That means high performance and all-day battery life, incredible graphics and ultra-portability, total flexibility and incredible value for money.

HP's next-generation thin and light laptops are ideal for everyone.

For productivity, the HP Pavilion 15-cs0015na makes every day effortless with its 8th generation Intel® Core™ i5 processor, dedicated graphics card for demanding apps such as Photoshop, and a roomy 256GB SSD. All that power comes at an incredibly low price of just £699.

That's not a misprint: HP's next-generation laptops deliver not just incredible technology but astonishing value for money too. And if you buy yours from **AO.com** you can get up to £100 cashback until 8 October 2018!

Cutting-edge laptops, such as HP's thin and light machines, are incredibly slim but offer amazing productivity, portability and performance all in one

With laptops, where you buy them can be as important as what you buy. Some retailers seem to lose interest as soon as they've got your card details. Wouldn't it be great if you could be sure of getting not just the best laptop, but the best price and the best customer service too?

That's what **AO.com** offers. Its price promise saves you the faff of trying to compare online prices: **AO.com** checks every price everywhere every day so that you know you're getting the best deal. And you're getting that deal on the day you want it. Forget vague delivery promises and hanging around your home hoping that some day your courier may come. **AO.com** offers next day delivery and will text you with a four-hour delivery window so you can get on with your day, tracking every stage of the delivery with **AO.com**'s excellent app. If you prefer, you can select a later date for as far as six weeks in the future.

Discover what the next generation of thin and light laptops can do for you at **AO.com**!

BEST GAMING LAPTOP

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Asus ROG
Zephyrus

Making the most of Nvidia's Max-Q hardware shrink, the ROG Zephyrus squashes a GeForce 1080 and an 8th-gen Core i7 CPU into an incredibly thin case. A clever ventilation system ensures the laptop stays cool, even under the pressure of full-bore gaming. In short, the ROG Zephyrus is an engineering masterpiece.



ACER PREDATOR TRITON 700

There's rarely any innovation in laptop design, but Acer's decision to move the touchpad of this high-end machine to a glass panel above the keyboard – because, hey, you're going to plug in a mouse anyway – is a real touch of aesthetic genius.



HP OMEN 15

A laptop with exceptional build quality, perfectly adequate power, and a price tag that actually makes sense. HP has put together a package that offers up exactly what gamers need, and without the bank-breaking extras that make some gaming laptops unattainable.



RAZER BLADE PRO

The Razer Blade Pro is utterly excessive in terms of size and, most notably, in terms of specs. If you want to tease every tiny shred of power out of a 4K laptop, you need one that's as fully stacked with speed, storage, memory and full-on GPU power as the Blade Pro.



ALIENWARE 17 R4

Alienware's QHD update to its largest laptop line brings with it a full restyle, and it's a damn good one too, including not just aesthetic improvements but gamer-friendly tweaks including IR eye tracking and a screaming-fast Core i7 CPU.



MSI GS65 STEALTH THIN 8RF

Bringing a big bag of pixel-pushing muscle and packing it into a tiny ultrabook shell, the Stealth Thin does things it logically shouldn't be able to do at this size. The addition of that almost bezel-free screen gives it an immense amount of wow factor.



PS42

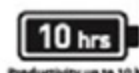
SLIM · ELEGANT · PRESTIGE



Thin Bezel IPS-level Panel



Finger Print



Productivity up to 10 hrs

- WINDOWS 10 HOME / WINDOWS 10 PRO
- UP TO 8TH GEN. INTEL® CORE™ i7 PROCESSOR
- GEFORCE® MX150 DISCRETE GRAPHICS

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*Performance result may vary on the different configuration. Product features and specifications may vary by model.

MSI.COM

BEST GAMING ACCESSORY

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
SteelSeries Arctis
Pro Wireless

There's a huge amount of competition in the headset market, but SteelSeries' premier cans get the entire checklist right: supreme comfort, flawless wireless connectivity, a great microphone, and absolutely beautiful sound. They're at the top of the tree, and it'll take something very special to knock them down.



RAZER MAMBA + FIREFLY HYPERFLUX

The Mamba HyperFlux is a super-light, battery-free 16,000dpi wireless mouse that'll never let you down, and the Firefly HyperFlux is the reason why: it's part mouse mat, part wireless charging pad to power the Mamba, and part communications hub. And it comes with customisable Chroma lighting, of course.



ROCCAT HORDE AIMO

Mixing membrane and mechanical keyboard technology, the quiet-action Horde AIMO has easily identifiable keys and a low action that makes it faster to actuate than most. It's a superb alternative to a deafening, expensive all-mechanical board. It's also kitted out with a configurable tuning wheel, macro keys and RGB backlighting.



AUDIO-TECHNICA ATH-ADG1X

If you're streaming or gaming online, you need to make yourself heard – and you need to be able to hear yourself while you're at it. The open back of this durable and brilliant-sounding headset ensures you're not trapped inside your own head, while the super-soft earpads keep things comfy during long gaming sessions.



STEELSERIES RIVAL 600

SteelSeries' TrueMove3 sensor is, by some margin, the cleverest and coolest mouse optic on the market, thanks to its dual sensor tech with 1-to-1 tracking – perfect for esports. The mouse design that the company has wrapped around it is equally clever, with tunable weighting and nifty illumination. It's also incredibly robust.



HYPERX PULSEFIRE SURGE

If you're as concerned with the looks of your set up as you are with the performance, then the Pulsefire Surge – highly customisable and brilliantly lit – absolutely has you covered. Its internal memory stores those customisations on board, too, while its 16,000dpi optics keep precise track of every mouse move you make.

BEST GADGET UNDER £100

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Google Home Mini



For such a small device, the Home Mini is remarkably loud. It's also remarkably clever, offering up Google Assistant capabilities and the ability to act as part of a sweet, multi-room audio setup. Perhaps the *most* remarkable thing is the small price – for such a well designed and sleek gadget, £49 is a bargain.

URBANISTA TOKYO

There's so much to love about these true wireless earbuds. They connect easily via Bluetooth, sit perfectly in the ear and don't budge even if you're wearing them while running for the bus. The sound is decent too.



ROKU STREAMING STICK+

Toting support for 4K content, HDR and voice search through its neat little remote, it's amazing what the Roku Streaming Stick+ manages to pack into such a small body for just £50. Extra points for the free content offerings.



AMAZON ECHO 2

Cheaper than the first-gen Echo, and smaller too, the Echo 2 loses none of the voice-controlled smarts that made the original Alexa speaker such a hit, but gains better speakers. A new cloth finish looks nicer in the home, too.



SPHERO R2-D2

This Artoo droid waddles, shuffles and bleeps in response to its app, chats with Sphero's other Star Wars bots, and can even watch the movies with you. It's the ultimate nerd indulgence, and not short on smarts.



OPTOMA NUFORCE BE SPORT4

Spin-fit ear tips mean this aptX Bluetooth headset stays put while you're working out. It's IPX5 rated to dodge sweat and water, and has a 10-hour battery life. Great design, great performance, no compromises.



LUMO RUN

Tracking metrics such as the cadence and bounce of your steps, and the drop and rotation of your pelvis, the Lumo Run sensor feeds into an app that offers up a tailored exercise regime. Much cheaper than a personal trainer.



BOSE SOUNDLINK MICRO

The almost pocket-sized SoundLink Micro is the neatest Bluetooth speaker in its bracket. It's rumbling loud and plenty clear, IPX7 certified for water resistance (making it perfect for the shower), and it can take a bump or 12.



BEST COMPACT, DSLR OR CSC CAMERA



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sony A7 III

A fantastic all-rounder camera, the 24.2MP Sony A7 III has one of the very best mirrorless autofocus systems available right now. It also boasts sharp 4K video and has a truly excellent image quality. It's ideal for all your shooting needs, and is much improved on previous versions thanks to the introduction of better battery life and handling.



SONY RX100 VI

One of the most capable compact cameras money can buy right now, the RX100 VI takes excellent photos with its 20.1MP sensor. Sony's second snapper in this awards category features 24fps burst shooting, advanced 4K video, and makes use of a highly sophisticated autofocus system.



FUJIFILM X-H1

A great camera, and one of the best in the X series mirrorless range. Built for pro-level enthusiasts and professionals, the X-H1 has a fully comprehensive specification to match, including in-body image stabilisation, advanced 4K video capture and touchscreen control for sheer ease of use.



PANASONIC LUMIX GX9

Aimed at photography enthusiasts who want a high-performance camera in a compact design, the Lumix GX9 has 4K photo and video modes, and a responsive touchscreen. It also has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity for sharing your images direct from the camera.



CANON EOS M50

A solid choice if you're looking for a mirrorless camera that boasts fantastic image quality and a great autofocus system that's also easy to use. It's a good option for budding photographers who want to upgrade from phone photography or who are in need of a basic compact camera.



HASSELBLAD H6D-400C

Yes that's right, the 400 in the H6D-400c model name really is referring to a huge 400MP! This premium, medium-format camera from Hasselblad is able to deftly capture incredibly detailed photos thanks to its innovative six-shot image capture and colour-accurate technology.

BEST LIFESTYLE CAMERA

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
GoPro Hero6

Could there be any other winner? The Hero6 features improvements to image quality and transfer speeds. It also boasts 4K 60fps and super-slow-motion Full HD 240fps video. As you'd expect, it has a waterproof and durable body, as well as improved image stabilisation to handle the most extreme conditions. Ready to meet the Hero7? Read our review on p113.



GOOGLE CLIPS

A tiny clip-on camera developed by Google, Clips has 16GB of on-board storage and can record video for up to three hours. A flashing LED shows when it's recording and, thanks to smart algorithms, it can detect interesting events to record automatically.



SONY RX0

An action cam that serves up fantastic imaging performance thanks to a 1.0-inch, 15.6MP image sensor for sports photography and dynamic shots. Built to withstand weight, impact and water up to 10 metres, it performs well in tough conditions.



INSTA360 ONE

This 360-degree camera is ideal for people who want to try spherical imaging and also have a VR headset. The Insta360 ONE is compact and designed to be plugged into a phone or used on its own to capture crisp 24MP stills and eye-catching 4K video.



FUJIFILM INSTAX SQUARE SQ6

An instant camera that shoots in a 1:1 square format. It has a few different modes – one for brightening subjects when capturing photos at night, and another to adjust the brightness and focal length – so you can take the perfect selfie wherever you are.



SNAPCHAT SPECTACLES (V2.0)

The latest version of Snapchat's Spectacles ticks all the right boxes. The built-in wearable camera can take both photos and video clips, and the specs now come in a slimmer design and in a range of colours. There are even prescription options available.

TECH LEGEND

ROBERT LLEWELLYN

He's gone from being a robot with an oddly rhomboid head to the host of *Scrapheap Challenge*, but nowadays Robert is known as a champion for electric cars and all things sustainable...

Along with Craig Charles, Robert started out as a key member of the cast of *Red Dwarf*, playing the robot Kryten from series three. *Dwarf* has proved indestructible but he's also branched into web broadcasting with *Fully Charged*, a weekly exploration of all things futuristic and sustainable, with 332,000 subscribers and audiences that run into millions. We called him as he drove to film a new episode. Or at least that was the idea...

T3: Wow, your car is very quiet. It's electric presumably?

RL: No, actually I'm *not* in my car, I had to stop and do some stuff but I do own one – a Tesla Model S85.

T3: Ah, not a Prius any longer? Famously, one once saved your life.

RL: Haha, well...it saved my life in the sense that I was in it when another car hit me, and I survived. The amazing thing about that was it was a side-on collision and it turned out to have side airbags – I had no idea. I mean, if you look at it, it's obvious but I had never thought about it before.

T3: That is a good time to find out.

RL: I felt very lucky, everyone survived. There was a dog that was in the other car, and that survived too, thankfully.

T3: The most prestigious T3 Award of all, apart from this one that we're giving to you, is Gadget of the Year. What's your Gadget of the Year?

RL: I'd have to say my GoCycle S. They're fantastic, a British company. I used to cycle absolutely everywhere but then I moved out of London, had kids, lots of things happened and I just stopped for many years...Until I got the GoCycle. I've found that using an electric

bike has actually led to me getting back into using a normal bike as well.

T3: Tell us about *Fully Charged*.

RL: I'm interested in electric vehicles and sustainability but the reason for doing it on YouTube was that I did a show a few years back called *Carpool*, where I'd basically give comedians and other people a lift in the Prius and film it. Unfortunately it didn't occur to me to sing whilst doing that or it could have been much bigger, but it did well enough to get picked up by Dave. With this I wanted to keep it totally a web thing. The great thing about doing a show on YouTube is you have the freedom to just do it. I remember back when I used to have to go into the BBC and pitch things...It seems crazy now, like being Alan Partridge. I probably did pitch 'Monkey Tennis' on more than one occasion, actually. We get over a million viewers for some episodes – I think the biggest one to date topped out at over two million – and you can see it's the beginning of a new, viable way of making TV shows.

T3: Are the viewers all into electric cars or do you also get a lot of sceptics?

RL: Oh yes, especially in the early days. I used to collect some of the

comments, I've been called everything, haha. Interestingly I've been called a leftie, liberal living in my elite bubble, but also an 'eco Nazi' so it's the full political spectrum. But obviously most of them are interested in electric cars and sustainability. We did an event in June this year at Silverstone and I was convinced nobody would show up! But 6,000 people came, which was a relief.

T3: Did you ever dream that *Red Dwarf* would prove so enduring?

RL: I actually almost didn't take the part. At the time I actually had just come off playing *another* robot – it was a show about a robot yuppie working in the city, you can't get much more '80s than that – and I said in my poncey, actor-y way, "Well, I don't want to get typecast as a robot." I wish I could use a time machine to go back and give my younger self a good slap and say, "Stop being such a knob; just take the part!"

T3: What's been your fondest memory of the show?

RL: I always think of one thing that sums it up was filming a scene where... we were pretty sure a line Craig had was going to get a laugh, but you can never be sure. So Chris [Barrie] and I were waiting to go on and he said the line and got this big laugh – we film in front of a really rather large audience – and I looked over and Chris was punching the air as he went on. Not for him getting a laugh, for the show. However, the moment of mine that people seem to remember most was when Chris said, "Kryten, go to Red Alert," and I replied [Kryten voice], "But sir, you do realise that will involve changing the light bulb!" That's what people ask me to write in books, or say to their dad on the phone...

"The great thing about doing a show on YouTube is you have the freedom to just do it... We get over a million viewers for some episodes of *Fully Charged*. It's a new way of making TV shows"



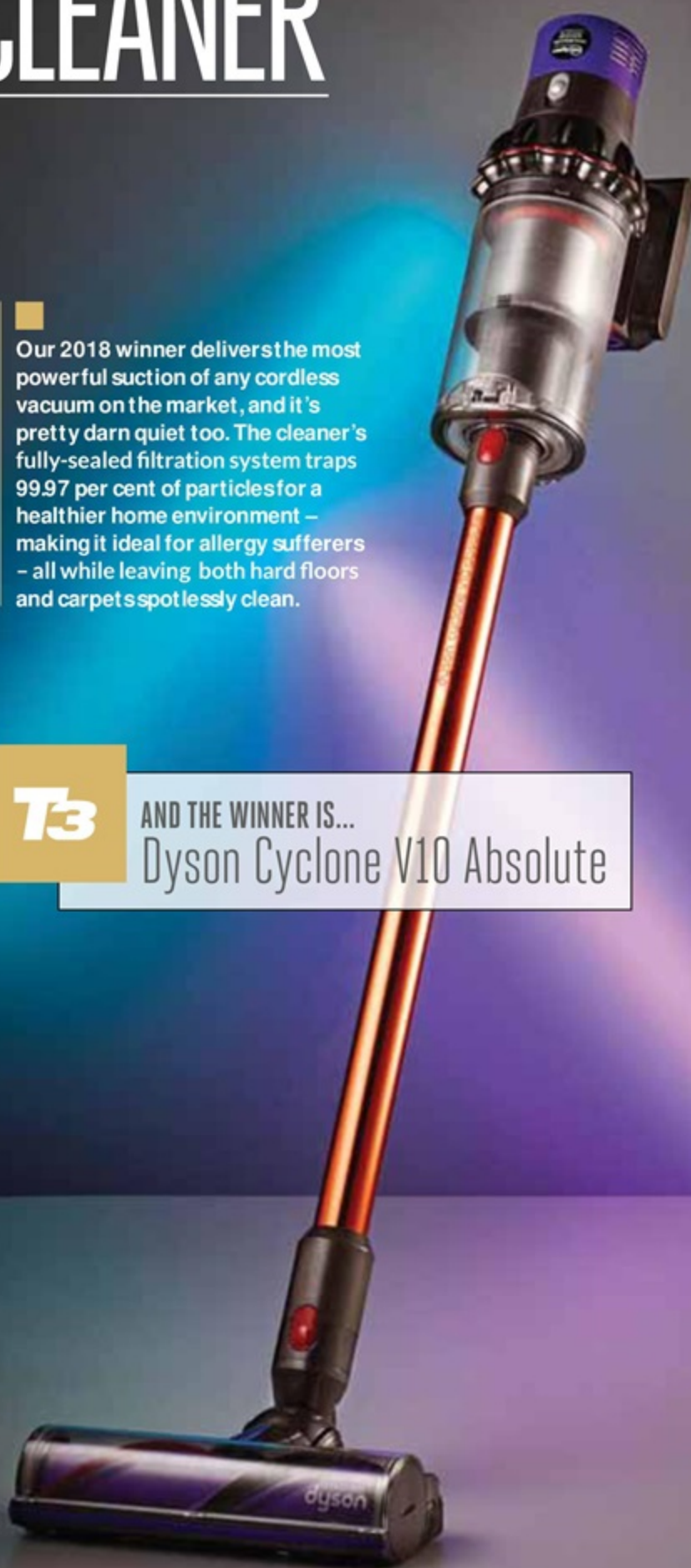
BEST VACUUM CLEANER

Our 2018 winner delivers the most powerful suction of any cordless vacuum on the market, and it's pretty darn quiet too. The cleaner's fully-sealed filtration system traps 99.97 per cent of particles for a healthier home environment – making it ideal for allergy sufferers – all while leaving both hard floors and carpets spotlessly clean.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Dyson Cyclone V10 Absolute



MIELE BLIZZARD CX1 COMFORT POWERLINE

A bagless vacuum delivering exceptional performance, thanks to tech that generates a flow velocity of more than 100 km/h. A HEPA2 lifetime filter traps up to 99.99 per cent of dust and other allergens.



VORWERK VK200

Packed with sensors, this upright vacuum can detect a range of floor conditions and automatically adjusts its power whether it's cleaning hard floors or carpets. It's also lightweight with an easily-adjustable handle.

T3

HIGHLY COMMENDED



NEATO BOTVAC CONNECTED D7

One of the smartest robo vacs on the market, the D7 uses lasers to map your house and create a plan for it to follow. These lasers even enable it to clean in the dark, so you can wake up to mess-free floors after a rocking house party.



BOSCH BCS122GB UNLIMITED

This powerful cordless vacuum can run for 60 minutes on a continuous charge, meaning you can clean the whole house in one go. It also comes with a number of accessories that enable it to handle all kinds of floors and surfaces.



SHARK DUOCLEAN CORDLESS

We nominated Shark's nimble vacuum because of its impressive cleaning performance, bolstered by twin brush rolls that remove top-level dust in a single pass. The DuoClean runs for 44 minutes per charge, so you can clean for longer.



PHILIPS SPEED PRO MAX

Pick up dirt from floors, furniture and even the walls with the Speed Pro Max's 360-degree suction nozzle, which can move forwards, backwards and along edges. A digital motor provides 1,000 litres of airflow per minute.

BEST WASHING MACHINE

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
AEG 9000 Series



MIELE WKG 120

This intelligent washer tailors the amount of detergent and fabric softener to each cycle so that it matches up with the demands of the clothes you're washing. Miele has also designed the WKG 120 (*) with a honeycomb drum to ensure that washed items get less creased, reducing your ironing duties. That's worth celebrating.



HOTPOINT ULTIMA S-LINE

Stains? Pah! The Ultima S-Line removes over 100 stains in a cool and eco-friendly 20-degree wash. Cleaning power is amped by Hotpoint's direct injection system, which premixes water with your fabric cleaner before it enters the drum. This quickly activates the detergent to deeper penetrate your clothes, resulting in a better wash.



LG 6 MOTION

Supercharge laundry day with the LG 6 Motion, a line of washing machines that deliver the most innovative tech solutions for your clothes, including Motion Direct Drive, which spins the drum in multiple directions. While delivering a superior clean, they also consume less energy and water in comparison to most other washing machines.



BOSCH SERIE 8

This washing machine from Bosch is specially designed to be extremely energy efficient and quiet – two of the most important things to look for in our book. It also comes with i-DOS, a nifty feature that dispenses just the right amount of detergent for each wash. You can also control it from anywhere with the Home Connect app.



Think of this winning washing machine from AEG as a trusted clothes guardian. That's because it delivers a thorough clean and top performance, but also cares for your clothes without compromise. It promises to maintain the colour, shape and feel of your garments – no more faded t-shirt or shrunken jumpers! It's A+++ rated for energy efficiency, too.

*The Miele WKG 120 has now been replaced with the newer WW E760

BEST DISHWASHER

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Bosch Serie 6

We've crowned this Bosch dishwasher the winner because it's oh so quiet, even when washing a big load. That means you can put it on in the evening without disturbing your family. There's a range of programmes, too, including one to clean delicate glassware without causing any damage.



MIELE G6890 SCVI K20

An economical dishwasher with a range of cleaning options, including a speedy power wash. The door automatically opens when you tap it, then at the end of the wash to ensure everything air-dries quickly. It's Wi-Fi enabled, too, so you can also control it via the app.



SMEG D4SS-1

Ideal for compact spaces, Smeg's slimline dishwasher has an innovative spray system that delivers super-clean results. The D2SS-1 also comes with a useful time-saver option, which reduces the length of some programmes if you're rushed off your feet.



BEKO DIN29X20

Do you have pans that need extra scrubbing? This dishwasher has an intense setting to handle stubborn dishes, as well as a fast setting that shortens programmes. It feels hassle free because its filter uses a special sprinkler system to clean itself.



SIEMENS IQ700 SN278136TE

This Siemens dishwasher features a dedicated setting for clean, shiny glasses, and another that promises to wash and dry your plates and cutlery up to three times faster than other machines. Control it via the Home Connect app, wherever you are.

BEST FRIDGE



BOSCH SERIE 2 CLASSIXX

Temperature sensors monitor both inside and outside of this fridge, so that it maintains a constant temperature no matter how hot it gets in the room. Energy-efficient LED lights are an added boon.



SAMSUNG FAMILY HUB

This fridge-freezer can act as the hub of your smart home, with a feature that keeps tabs on the food inside and a screen on the outside that you can use for playing videos, following recipes and much more.



HOOVER WIZARD HF18XX

Part of Hoover's range of Wizard Smart Appliances, you can control this Wi-Fi-enabled fridge-freezer via the app, which means you can turn it on, off or get notified of any rise in temperature via your phone.



LG SIGNATURE INSTAVIEW DOOR-IN-DOOR

This smart fridge has lots of great features, like a mirrored glass panel that lets you see what's inside, door tech that detects your presence and settings that can be controlled via the LG Smart ThinQ app.



SIEMENS KG36NAW35G

This fridge-freezer keeps tabs on the temperature inside and the ambient temperature outside, and can make adjustments. A built-in ventilation system means no more defrosting necessary.



AEG CUSTOMFLEX

Organise your fridge-freezer with customisable storage options that you can rearrange quickly and easily. There are clips for herbs, clear boxes for cheese and secure shelving for everything else.



GAGGENAU VARIO WINE CLIMATE CABINETS

The ultimate storage solution for wine lovers, create three custom climate zones via the touch display to ensure your bottles are stored at the perfect temperature. There are five lighting options available too.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Miele K 28202 D WS

Fitted with a fan for circulating cool air, this Miele fridge provides a consistent temperature throughout, which chills food and drinks 50 per cent quicker and keeps it fresher for longer. It also has LED lighting that's efficient and maintenance-free.

BEST OVEN

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Rangemaster Elise 110



This super-stylish, high-end oven is inspired by top continental chefs. It comes in a range of colours, from white to cherry red, and sports a gas hob featuring six burners. Want more? The Elise 110 has a fan oven and a multifunction oven, which offers seven settings in addition to self-cleaning lines for zero hassle.



PANASONIC NN-CS894

A family-sized oven with microwave, convection, grill and steam functions, you can now prepare a huge range of meals without any of the hard work. A large display assists you while you cook, and a self-cleaning coating inside takes the trouble out of cleaning.



AEG SENSECOOK PYRO

Your food will never be burnt or undercooked again, thanks to this oven's built-in food sensor that takes the guesswork out of cooking. This oven also makes cleaning a breeze, turning leftover residue into a fine ash that's easy to wipe away.



MIELE H 2267 BP

Miele's contender for best oven features easy-to-use controls and a pyrolytic self-cleaning function that turns dirt and grime into ash – simply wipe and go. The oven also delivers precise temperature regulation, so you always get the best results for your food.



CHAR-BROIL KAMANDER KAMADO

For a different kind of cooking experience, we like the Char-Broil Kamander, a kamado-style grill with controls to maintain temperature for any type of cooking, from slow smoking at low temperatures to searing at high temperatures.



BOSCH HBG5785S0B

The hot air distribution tech inside this oven ensures it's heated evenly across all levels. There's a built-in meat probe, plus a range of automatic programmes for those who hate cooking. Throw in an LCD display and self-cleaning tech, and you can see why we like it.

TECH INNOVATION FOR THE FUTURE

IN ASSOCIATION WITH **honor**
FOR THE BRAVE

TECH
INNOVATION
FOR THE
FUTURE

honor
FOR THE BRAVE

The 2018 Tech Innovation for the Future Awards are designed to seek out the most creative and exciting ideas for how tech can be used to improve our lives, solve real-world problems and deliver genuine benefits.

We have opened these awards up for students and recent graduates to submit their concepts and projects that could make real improvements in people's lives, from the grand to the small.

We will choose one of the submitted innovations as the winner, who will receive £10,000 to help bring their idea to life. Two runners up will receive £3,000 and £1,500 respectively.

BEST HOME AIR IMPROVEMENT TECH

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Dyson Pure Cool

The Pure Cool from Dyson keeps the air in your home cool and fresh, with a powerful fan and purifier that can detect and capture dust, gases, particles and harmful bacteria in the air. It's also merricfully quiet. Perfect.



MEACO 1056 AIR CIRCULATOR

This quiet and energy-efficient fan from Meaco delivers multi-direction air-flow that bounces around the room for even cooling.



FALMEC BELLARIA

A stylish air purifier and ionisation device that uses the same tech as Falmec's kitchen extractors, as well as doubling as a lamp.



VAX PURE AIR 300

A built-in 360-degree filter removes smoke, pollen and harmful bacteria, so it's ideal for hayfever, asthma and allergy sufferers.



PHILIPS AC3256

This device removes ultra-fine particles and captures 99 per cent of bacteria in an hour while displaying the air quality in real-time.



MEACO 25L ULTRA LOW ENERGY DEHUMIDIFIER

This device purifies and dehumidifies the air in your home while keeping energy costs down.

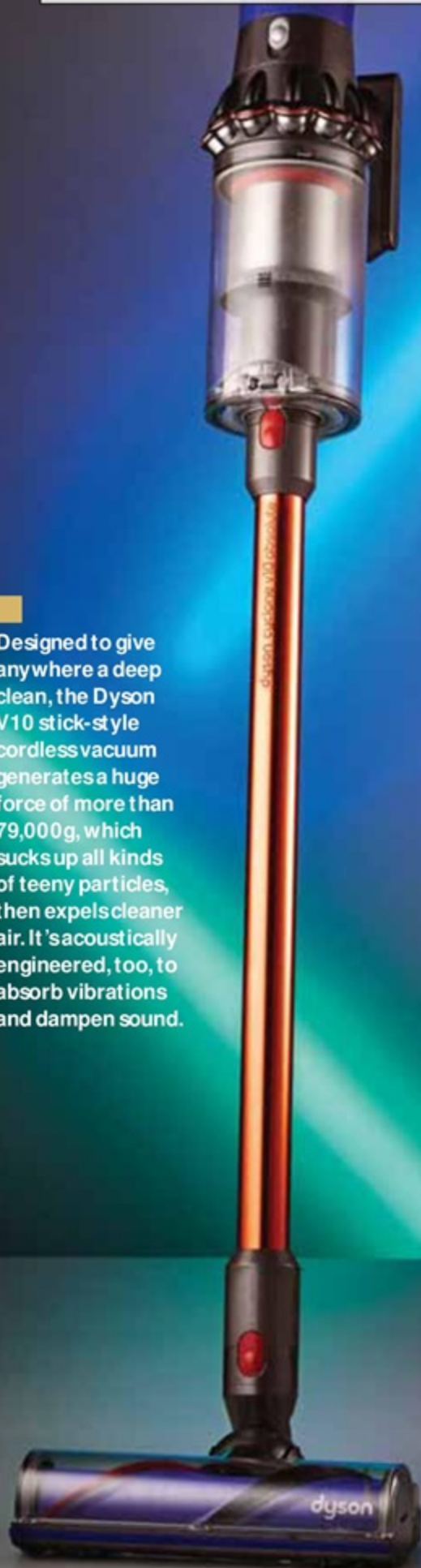


T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
DYSON CYCLONE V10 ABSOLUTE

BEST HOME APPLIANCE

Designed to give anywhere a deep clean, the Dyson V10 stick-style cordless vacuum generates a huge force of more than 79,000g, which sucks up all kinds of teeny particles, then expels cleaner air. It's acoustically engineered, too, to absorb vibrations and dampen sound.



SAGE THE ORACLE TOUCH

A bean-to-cup coffee machine that'll make it feel like a barista is working in your kitchen. Swipe through the touchscreen menu and choose which coffee you want, then adjust the strength, texture and temperature to suit you.



DYSON PURE COOL

This fan doesn't just keep your home cool, it also keeps it fresh by purifying the air. The Dyson Pure Cool senses particles and gases, then captures 99.95 per cent of them to create much cleaner, healthier air inside your home.



TEFAL ACTIFRY GENIUS XL

Cook your favourite fried dishes with little to no oil. Via nine automatic settings, the ActiFry Genius XL prepares a range of fried foods, from chicken to chips. You don't need to shake or monitor the food while it cooks, either.



SAMSUNG FAMILY HUB

Way more than a fridge, the mighty Family Hub has built-in 5W speakers so that you can play music in the kitchen. Like to cook? Fire up (via the app) recipes on its integrated display, or read the weather or leave notes and photos.



LG 6 MOTION

We nominated the LG 6 Motion washer because it takes the hassle out of doing laundry. Direct Drive technology inside moves the drum in different directions, providing a top clean while using energy and water more efficiently.



AEG 9000 SERIES

Our washing machine of the year provides the best care for your clothes and linens, keeping them the right colour and shape for longer. That, and AEG's promise of a 60-degree wash but at an eco-friendly 30 degrees.

BEST SMALL APPLIANCE

This fully automatic coffee machine enables you to create a professional barista-style brew from the comfort of your home. Use the touchscreen to choose from an Americano, espresso, latte, flat white or cappuccino, then customise your coffee to suit your specific tastes.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Sage The Oracle Touch



TEFAL ACTIFRY GENIUS XL

A healthier and easier way to prepare fried foods, Tefal's cooker gives you perfectly crisp chips in just 30 minutes. Zero monitoring or oil required.



SMEG ECF01

Enjoy your daily espresso with ease. This machine turns ground coffee or coffee pods into tasty beverages, and it even has a fun milk frother.



KITCHENAID ARTISAN STAND MIXER

Perhaps the most famous mixer of all time, the Artisan has attachments for all sorts of recipes, including a beater for mash and a whisk for beating eggs.



BOSCH MSM88160GB

This powerful hand blender boasts 800 watts of power and lots of useful accessories for quick and easy blending when you're prepping food.



JR ULTRA 8000S 2

A slow juicer that works to deliver the purest juices packed full of nutrients, enzymes and vitamins. Use it with fruit, vegetables and heaps of leafy greens.



KITCHENAID ARTISAN POWER PLUS BLENDER

The powerful motor inside this high-performance blender is beefy enough to tackle all kinds of ingredients, including frozen fruits and hard veg.

THE ECO AWARD

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Johan Cruijff Arena,
Amsterdam

Even huge event spaces can be sustainable, as shown by this Dutch arena's ingenious use of green energy. 4,200 solar panels provide power to Europe's largest energy storage (using Nissan batteries), while water from a nearby lake provides the building's cooling.



AFRICAN RENEWABLE ENERGY DISTRIBUTOR SOLAR CHARGING KIOSKS

Phones are changing the lives of many across Africa, and these mobile solar stations give them a way to charge using renewable energy.



GRAVIKY LABS AIR INK

This ink is made from pollution. A device fitted to car exhausts captures soot, which is processed and purified into a safe carbon pigment. 45 mins of exhaust soot can fill a normal-sized pen.



PAVEGEN V3 ENERGY GENERATING PAVEMENT

Each of these panels can generate 5W of power just from people walking over them, providing a low-impact way for cities or buildings to cut their carbon footprint.



TESLA HORNSDALE POWER RESERVE

Tesla's 100-megawatt battery stores and manages energy from a windfarm in South Australia, making the most of the resource, and avoids outages.



PATAGONIA OUTDOOR CLOTHING

Patagonia's approach to recycling and waste prevention – such as using polyester made from recycled bottles – is class-leading, and it's already inspiring other brands to do similar.

BEST GARDEN TECH



GREENWORKS G40LM35

A light weight and nimble mower, the G40LM35 can cut up to 300m² on only one battery charge, and charges to full in just 60 minutes. It comes with five different height options, with a cutting height range of 20mm to 70mm.



COBRA MX46SPB

Designed with the changing conditions of British lawns in mind, the Cobra allows you to either mulch – with side and rear discharge – or collect grass clippings. It's high-performance motor lets the mower cut lawns up to 600m².



ROBOMOW RS635

The flagship model from Robomow, the RS635 can autonomously tackle lawns of up to 3,600m² using a floating cutter deck to get the perfect trim. Connect the mower to the app to change settings using its smart remote control feature.



GTECH ST20

For keeping the edges of your lawn tidy, this grass trimmer gives you the freedom to neaten up your garden without the hassle of a cord. It only weighs 1.75kg, and has an adjustable handle, putting less strain on you and your back.



RYOBI OBL1820S

Get rid of leaves, garden debris and anything else that needs clearing out of the way with the OBL1820S from Ryobi. It boasts a 245kph air velocity, and can run for over 22 minutes, giving you enough time to clear the decks.



BOSCH AXT 25 TC

Shred large volumes of branches, shrubs, wood and other garden waste with the quiet yet fast Bosch AXT 25 TC. It has a powerful mains sourced 2,500W induction motor and a touch pad control for easy, efficient shredding.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Stihl RMA 235



This mower is lightweight at only 14kg, making gardening much easier for your spine. It has a motor unit with an eco mode and a flow-optimised blade to ensure maximum efficiency, along with five height settings. It runs using Stihl's battery system – the power packs work with loads of other tools in the range. It's brilliantly versatile.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Wattbike Atom

BEST HOME FITNESS TECH



Get fit and improve your cycling, all from your living room with the Wattbike Atom, a super-smart bike trainer packed with training plans that enable you to track your performance over time. We like the bike's Climb Mode, which automatically adjusts your resistance so that it feels like you're powering up a hill.



TECHNOGYM SKILLRUN

A treadmill with a big difference, the Skillrun is designed for those who take fitness seriously, and combines cardio and resistance training in one piece of equipment. It's perfect for runners who want to build strength as well as stamina.



NORDICTRACK E10.0

Build this powerful elliptical in three easy steps for a workout that's all about results. You can adjust the incline to target specific muscle groups, and turn on the built-in fan to keep you cool while you sweat it out.



BOWFLEX SELECTTECH

No more fighting over the weight rack at the gym! We nominated the SelectTech dumbbells because you can exercise at home and easily adjust their weight whenever you need to. Trust us, they're the only pair of dumbbells you need.



WAHOO KICKR CLIMB

The KICKR Climb may have been built to be an indoor bike, but it adjusts its position to feel just like roads and mountain climbing for realistic training that'll improve your technique, engage different muscles and help you get fitter.



TACX NEO

A silent bike trainer designed for at-home workouts, the Neo is packed with immersive features, such as the road mode that makes it feel like you're really cycling over cobbles and gravel. The best thing? No calibration is needed.

BEST BIKE

A road bike that's fit for a range of purposes, from cycling to work and back, to providing you with a serious cardio workout on the weekends. The Roadlite CF 9.0 from Canyon is made for comfort, with built-in tech that guarantees a smooth ride, absorbing rough roads without tiring you out or cutting down your speed.



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Canyon Roadlite CF 9.0



SPECIALIZED ROUBAIX ELITE

A road bike designed for a variety of surfaces thanks to its Future Shock suspension technology, developed with McLaren Applied Technologies. Thanks to a super-light frame and targeted stiffness, you'll always be comfortable and in control when riding.



BMC ROADMACHINE 03 ONE

An all-rounder bike built to deliver what matters most to cyclists: top performance, comfort and speed. The BMC RoadMachine 03 ONE combines modern wheel tech with supported geometry for a balanced, front-to-back compliance that'll suit various terrain.



VOLT PULSE

This great-looking hybrid comes with a choice of five pedal-assisted speed settings and a top speed of 15.5mph. Built from high-end components, like puncture-resistant tires and a Lithium Polymer battery, it can handle city cycling as well as light country trails.



BROMPTON ELECTRIC

A smart bike that doesn't skimp on style or quality, Brompton's eagerly awaited electric ride could be the future of city transportation... Or at least make your commute more bearable. There are four modes of assistance, depending on the route and your energy levels.



TREK FUEL EX 7

The Fuel EX 7 is a high-performance, full-suspension mountain bike that's built to handle a range of unpredictable terrain, from roads to trails to descents. With a light weight aluminium frame and a 1x11 SRAM NX drivetrain, it's ready for big adventures.

BEST RUNNING HEADPHONES

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...

Jabra Elite Active 65t



Built for active lifestyles, Jabra's super-secure wireless earbuds provide best in class in-ear stability. They offer five hours of battery life, and come with a pocket-friendly charging case that provides two extra charges. They also offer voice support for Siri, Alexa and Google Assistant, should you need it.



OPTOMA NUFORCE BE SPORT4

These Bluetooth in-ear headphones have a durable design and custom ear tips to keep them securely in place. They deliver two hours of music on just 15 minutes of charge, and are sweat- and water-resistant.



MONSTER VICTORY WIRELESS

The Victory Wireless are lightweight, have good noise isolation and, with more than eight hours of playback, they're ideal for long-distance runners or anyone who doesn't want the hassle of constantly powering them up.



BOSE SOUNDSPORT FREE

True wireless earbuds serving up rich, powerful sound, plus a secure and comfortable fit. They're water-resistant and durable, offering a superb soundtrack whether your phone is in your pocket or strapped to your arm.



AFTERSHOKZ TREKZ AIR

Built from titanium, these sports headphones provide a secure and comfortable fit. They deliver quality sound through your cheekbones, keeping your ears open to ambient noises, and can be used to make calls.



SENNHEISER CX SPORT BLUETOOTH

Sweat- and splash-resistant Bluetooth headphones delivering six hours' battery life, which can be powered up via USB in ten minutes for a further hour of playback. Sound is clear, with solid bass for pounding the pavement.



URBANEARS STADION

The Stadion is a snazzy-looking Bluetooth headset built to provide a comfortable and secure fit during workouts, with soft button controls on the back. Enjoy seven hours of playback after just one charge.

BEST FITNESS WEARABLE

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Fitbit Versa

The Fitbit brand has long been a firm favourite here at T3, but the Versa smartwatch is a great all-rounder with its good-looking screen, heart-rate tracking, truly unisex design and 15 different exercise modes. It also has a four-day battery life and serves up notifications as you work out. It's the perfect balance.



SUUNTO FITNESS 9

This GPS multi-sports watch gives you 120 hours of continuous exercise tracking. It serves up smart charging reminders, and it's built to last with a rugged design that's been tested in tough conditions to ensure it's up to the job.



GARMIN 645 MUSIC

You can work out phone-free with the 645 Music, which has room for up to 500 audio tracks as well as Garmin Pay. It also tracks everything you'd expect from a high-end running watch, like stride length, vertical ratio, heart rate and more.



FITBIT IONIC

The best Fitbit for running and the gym, the Ionic's square design is admittedly a bit Marmite, but. With GPS and heart-rate tracking it can detect all kinds of workouts and boasts four days of battery life. A great fitness watch.



STRYD

A running gadget that wants to get you fitter – not injured. It records your runs and collects data on your cadence, pace, distance, ground time and more, providing you with daily guidance and training recommendations.



LUMO RUN

This training wearable is great way to improve your form when you're pounding the pavement. It clips onto your running gear and analyses your runs, providing real-time audio feedback and coaching to help you perfect your technique.

BEST PERSONAL GROOMING TECH

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
**Philips 9000
Series Prestige**



The Series9000 Prestige might give you the closest shave you've ever had. It has extra-strong blades that can shave even week-old stubble smoothly, and cut closer to the skin, as well as anti-friction rings for irritation-free gliding. It uses Qi wireless charging, so you can charge from its own pad, or pop it on any charger.

PHILIPS ONEBLADE PRO

This multi-purpose styler can shave, trim and create clean lines whatever the length of the face or body hair that you're grooming. But it's not just incredibly efficient, it's comfortable, too, and naturally follows the contours of your skin. It can be used wet or dry, with or without foam.

PHILIPS SONICARE 6100 PROTECTIVECLEAN

Customise your teeth cleaning with a built-in pressure sensor and different settings. One setting is designed to remove surface stains and promises whiter gnashers in just a week; another protects your gums with gentler action.

BRAUN MGK 3045

Think of this as a complete face-and-body grooming kit rolled into one, thanks to a set of clever attachments that enables you to carry out seven different jobs, with 13 precision length settings for achieving the cleanest edges and sharpest curves.



PANASONIC ER-GD60 I-SHAPER

Style, trim and shave with this handy grooming gadget from Panasonic. 20 different cutting lengths mean plenty of precision and a detail attachment enables you to style hard-to-reach areas, such as around your jawline.



BRAUN SERIES 9 9296CC

This waterproof shaver has an advanced motor that can shave more hair in one stroke than other shavers, whether you're using it dry, wet or with foam. Its charging station cleans, lubricates, dries and charges, so the razor feels new every day.



BEST TRAVEL TECH



TILE SPORT

The Tile Sport is a Bluetooth tracker inside a minimal tag that can attach to anything you worry about losing. Open the accompanying app and it'll show you where your Tile is. You can also activate its alarm via the app.



SONY RX100 VI

A pocket-sized camera that's ideal for travel, the RX100 VI has a wide 24-200mm zoom range, continuous shooting and sharp video recording capabilities. Optical image stabilisation keeps images steady, even on the move.



SAMSONITE COSMOLITE SPINNER 55CM

Strong and light, the Cosmolite Spinner has a ribbed, shell design that's inspired by nature to withstand knocks without any added weight. It also comes in a range of colours to suit your unique travel style.



AMAZON KINDLE OASIS

The best Kindle to date, the Oasis is waterproof, making it ideal for pool-side reading. With a 7-inch high-res display and 300ppi, it reads just like printed paper. Prefer audio books? There's Audible integration, so let the Oasis read to you.



SONY WH1000XM2

These Bluetooth Sony headphones may look simple, but they're some of the best on the market for noise-cancelling tech. Ideal for flying, they have built-in atmospheric pressure optimisation to deliver the best sound when you're in the air.



BOSE QUIET COMFORT 35 II

When it comes to best-in-class noise cancellation and sound, these are firm favourites. The Bose beauties also support Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant, enabling you to play music and manage your day with your voice.



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
G-Ro Carry-On Classic

Thought carry-on cases were boring? Think again. The G-Ro Classic has a range of smart features to keep your gadget powered up, and enables you to track your luggage if it's misplaced. There are lots of pockets, as well as wheel tech capable of rolling over all kinds of terrain.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Nextbase 612GW

BEST CAR GADGET



A dashcam means cheaper insurance and greater peace of mind, but not all cams are equal. Nextbase's super-sharp Sony Exmor optics capture 4K HDR footage, with a wide dynamic range making night driving just as visible when you watch the footage back. This is the best addition you can make to your car, whatever you might drive.



TOMTOM VIA 53

TomTom's history in the sat-nav market shows through in this compact, feature-filled GPS unit. Live mapping updates ensure you'll always find the best route, and interfacing it with your phone means hands-free calls and messaging, too.



THINKWARE F100

Ultra-discreet and highly reliable, Thinkware's Full HD dashcam is perfect for adding a little security at a very affordable price. We're impressed with the quality of the footage, and the crash detection G-sensor is spot on.



VODAFONE V-AUTO

SIM-based GPS tracking for any car – just stick this in the OBDII port and you're good to find your car when it's moving or parked. If you get into an accident, the V-Auto will automatically alert an agent to see if you need help. Ingenious.



LOGITECH ZERO TOUCH

An air vent phone mount with some serious smarts; attach your handset to its magnet and Logi's travel-proof app launches, giving you hands-free access to Alexa, phone calls and more. Super-safe, and very clever indeed.



BENTLEY X STARCK POWER DOCK

Bentley wouldn't just make a plain home charging port for your electric car, so it's unsurprising that the company's luxury juicer – brushed aluminium, with Starck styling – is quite so beautiful.

BEST CAR

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Jaguar I-PACE

Here's a car that almost defies classification, because Jaguar didn't stick to one. Instead it focused on making its first all-electric vehicle into the very best car it could be. With a 300-mile range, 394bhp to all four wheels, and a delectable trim, it doesn't matter if this is an SUV, a sports car or a sedan – it's just great. End of.



VOLKSWAGEN T-ROC

Designed with a punchy, responsive power plant and a commendable infotainment system, VW's comfortable and agile crossover hatchback rides high and feels like a much bigger vehicle than it is in truth. It ain't short on slick exterior looks, either.



ASTON MARTIN VANTAGE

Aston fired at the 911 and hit target with this V8 sports car, producing serious grunt in an impeccable shell. The back end's twitchy but precise, the right-hand pedal makes great noise, and the low front engine equals amazing control.



VOLVO XC40

The first small SUV from Volvo, but it inherits little from what's gone before. No, this is a fresh, luxury design packed with space. It features quality tech and the kind of tank-esque safety befitting the lustrous legacy of the Gothenburg masters.



BENTLEY CONTINENTAL GT

A Super GT built for touring in absolute opulence. Bentley's luxury levels haven't faltered even slightly, the roaring V12 under the bonnet can barely hold its horses, and the ride itself is refined enough to make this a daily driver.



AUDI A8

Absolutely covered in driver assistance features, culminating in what Audi calls the most autonomous production car in the world, the A8 is equal parts sexy and smooth – but if you want it to move, it'll jump to life in an instant.

honor
FOR THE BRAVE

GPU
TURBO



honor Play^{AI}

CRAZY FAST CRAZY SMART



GPU Turbo



Kirin 970 with
AI Processor



4D Gaming
Experience

Available at

amazon



Carphone Warehouse



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honor
FOR THE BRAVE



Phantom Blue

honor 10^{AI}

BEAUTY IN AI



24MP AI Camera



5.84" Honor FullView Display



Aurora Glass Design



Ultrasonic Fingerprint

Available at     

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BEST MOBILE ACCESSORY

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Anker PowerWave



Internally cooled, and able to intelligently detect the voltage required for your device's fast charging circuit, Anker's Qi-charger/stand combo delivers high-speed power all the way. Its 60-degree, non-slip dock also keeps your device propped up at the ideal angle for face unlocking. This is better than your current charger, and we love it.



PROPORTA iPhone X CARBON ULTRA

Carbon fibre protection for your iPhone X, in a form which doesn't hurt its beautiful lines.



GREENWICH WALKER ALCANTARA FOLIO S9

Purportedly shotgun-proof, this case adds a dose of sartorial style to the already-classy S9.



TECH21 EVO LUXE VEGAN LEATHER CASE

Evo cases effectively absorb drop shocks. The addition of vegan leather is a lovely touch.



NATIVE UNION CLIC MARQUETRY

Unique colours, mapped out in hand-carved leather on the rear, with reinforced construction for iPhone protection.



MOUS LIMITLESS 2.0 BAMBOO

The bamboo looks good, but it's the AiroShock polymer/air mix that makes (and absorbs) the biggest impact here.

BEST VPN

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
ExpressVPN

ExpressVPN's interface is straightforward, its connection speeds are very strong, and its price is entirely reasonable. But it's the security that matters – based in the British Virgin Islands, with a solid privacy policy, this is a VPN you can really trust with your data.



TUNNELBEAR

Combining the cute styling of a teddy bear, and the fierce protection of a grizzly, this VPN is both easy and secure.



IP VANISH

If you want to hide or pretend you're from one of over 60 international locations, IP Vanish is a one-click option.

BEST MID-RANGE PHONE



T3 HIGHLY COMMENDED



NOKIA 6

This is a stunning little phone at a tiny price point, offering near-as stock Android running on a solid processor, a great, bright 5.5-inch screen, and a satisfying shell. The Zeiss-lensed camera isn't too shabby, either. What a package.



MOTO G6

A cheaper phone, with high-end flair. That dual camera, complete with depth-sensing Portrait mode, produces excellent results, and the slick rear exudes glassy premium charm. Moto's arm-gesture actions are a nice touch, too.



SONY XPERIA XA1

Not every phone has to stretch the limits of your pockets – Sony's XA1 is compact in all dimensions, plus it looks pricier than it is. And its camera, at 23MP with Sony's excellent processing engine backing it up, is fantastic.



XIAOMI MI A1

Optimised software and a superb camera head the bill of the A1, but don't miss what's inside; the combination of 4GB RAM and an eight-core Snapdragon 625 chipset make this one of the most powerful phones in its price bracket.



HUAWEI P20 LITE

A notched handset under £300 is nothing to sniff at, and the P20 Lite's expansive edge-to-edge QHD display does not let it down. Neither do its cameras, which comprise both a dual rear setup and a face-unlocking dual front pair.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Honor 10

Last year's Honor 9 was awesome, and the Honor 10 continues that trend, bringing in high-end features for a lot less money. The notched screen is bright and clear, the cameras are excellent, the performance is flagship-grade, and the iridescent case options are utterly unique. It's a mid-range phone that doesn't know it's mid-range.

BRAND OF THE YEAR

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Amazon



It's what Amazon is doing outside its usual space that's bagged it the win for Brand of the Year. Alexa's expansion into a plethora of smart devices from other manufacturers, combined with some clever marketing, has put the tech giant streets ahead in the smart assistant race.



APPLE

Apple's products continue to drive the user experience forward as much as they push the limits of design.



MICROSOFT

Redmond's hardware division has gone from strength to strength, and its updates to Windows have also been great.



SAMSUNG

Another killer flagship phone, and envelope-pushing TV tech, drove an impressive year for the Korean giant.



LG

LG's profile has risen this year, with phones like the AI-enabled G7 ThinQ and its superb OLED TV line leading the charge.



SONY

TVs, particularly the amazing AF8, prove that Sony continues to push tech boundaries before anyone else can catch up.



HUAWEI

One of the strongest breakout brands from China, Huawei is gaining ground fast in the busy phone market.

RETAILER OF THE YEAR

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
John Lewis



The consistently strong John Lewis comes out on top not simply because of its still-unrivalled commitment to the customer – lengthy product cover, reasonable prices (with matching to others), a welcoming environment and an excellent website easily won our panel's affections.



AMAZON

Where can you get absolutely everything? Amazon. Same-day delivery and reordering make it a unique retailer.



CURRYS PC WORLD

The high-street giant is a top place to get new tech, and stock checking online before you visit is pure convenience.



AO.COM

With a focus on the big stuff, AO's rep as a strong electricals seller with great service ethics is growing fast.



RICHER SOUNDS

Still rocking hard, Richer Sounds' products reflect its commitment to the best AV tech for all price brackets.



EBUYER

If you need a specific component, eBuyer's deep selection of specialist kit means it's the place to look first.

PHONE OF THE YEAR



SAMSUNG GALAXY S9

The S9 isn't a big leap forward from the S8 in terms of design and features. That's because the wheel didn't need reinventing. Improved photos from a slick, dual-aperture camera, a great screen and epic speed add up to an ace phone.



HUAWEI P20 PRO

The impressive three-camera system on the back of the P20 Pro make it this year's best camera phone. Huawei didn't skimp on the rest, either: it looks great, it's fast, and a raft of ingenious AI features means it's a joy to use.



GOOGLE PIXEL 2 XL

Again, the camera is the stand-out feature here. Although other cameras beat it in certain ways, for low-light shooting this one still blows us away. Overall, the Pixel 2 XL is an incredibly slick Android experience in a premium package.



ONEPLUS 6

Upon release, this phone was all about big power for an unbeatable price. It makes using features such as the Face Unlock option unbelievably smooth and fast. Great build quality and a lovely screen are the icing on a rather tasty cake.



HTC U12+

HTC loves exploring new ground in phone design. As such, the striking body, cool features – think non-mechanical haptic buttons and Edge Sense, dual-camera face sensing – plus great specs delivered a big hit for enthusiasts.



LG G7 THINQ

LG has played to its strengths with this phone, packing in one of the brightest screens we've ever seen, and an impressive audio system to boot. Clever AI features bolster its camera, and it doesn't skimp on speed either.



HONOR 10

Honor has always been a mid-range brand, but the 10 shows it can do premium when it wants to. There's a high-end processor, fantastic AI-powered camera system, a big screen, and a beautiful design that belies the price.



SONY XPERIA XZ2

When we reviewed this phone we described it as 'the sleeper hit of the year'. The Xperia XZ2 dazzled us with its standout hardware and features, including the ability to deliver 4K HDR recording. Powerful and quietly beautiful.

T3 AND THE WINNER IS...
Apple iPhone X

Apple set the phone agenda with the striking notch design, premium steel build and powerful 'Bionic' processor. Throw in a gorgeous OLED screen, brilliant camera and secure Face ID scanning, and you can see why – even a year on from its release – no phone has so far managed to do it all better.



BEST WATCH



T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
Tudor Black Bay GMT

A distinctive design with 41mm steel casing and a blue and burgundy bezel, the Black Bay GMT is a bold watch for making a fashion statement. Its new GMT feature establishes the local time, but doesn't lose sight of the time in two other time zones, making it ideal for people who travel regularly.

T3

HIGHLY COMMENDED



CHRISTOPHER WARD C65 TRIDENT DIVER

The C65 Trident Diver is a stylish timepiece that can be accessorised with every outfit, from a well-cut suit to a hoody. Despite its '60s looks, it has plenty of gadgetry, such as a uni-directional dive-time bezel.



MARLOE WATCH COMPANY LOMOND CHROMSCOPE

A watch with modern styling that still nods to traditional designs, the Lomond prides itself on the most accurate timekeeping. This is why it provides layers of information, such as a telemeter round the rim.



NOMOS GLASHÜTTE AUTOBAHN

Created in collaboration between Glashütte and renowned designer Werner Aisslinger, this gorgeous timepiece has a clear face inspired by speedometers, and a luminous dial for use in the dark. Its case is water resistant, too.



TAG HEUER CARRERA CALIBRE

A watch that looks as good as it performs, the Calibre 16 has a 41mm steel casing and sapphire crystal, blending classic style with modern aesthetics. Not just a pretty face, it's water resistant, with excellent mechanical precision.



HAMILTON KHAKI X-WIND AUTO LIMITED EDITION

Created to celebrate Hamilton's 100 years of aviation timing, this limited-edition timepiece is a COSC-certified chronometer that comes with Hamilton's drift angle calculator, which can calculate crosswinds.

BEST LUXURY TECH

They don't get thinner than this—really, they don't. LG's refresh of the W7 absolutely blew us away: the OLED 'wallpaper TV', as it's been dubbed, is bright and contrasty, has excellent noise reduction, supports high-end Dolby Vision HDR, and all on a screen 2.5mm thick. Even the soundbar it comes with is good.

T3

AND THE WINNER IS...
LG OLED W8



LEICA M10 EDITION ZAGATO

Combining Zagato's Italian car design sensibilities with Leica's ultra-refined lens and sensor engineering, this crossover camera (limited to 250 units) is an aesthetic take on the M10, which comes 70g lighter than the original.



RESENCE TYPE 2 E-CROWN

A beautiful, oil-filled mechanical watch in its own right, but it's the slip-proof e-crown that really blew us away: set a reference time, or pick your place in the world, and it'll automatically adjust the movement to match.



LAND ROVER RANGE ROVER P400E PHEV

The iconic large-shouldered poise of the Range Rover, with a luxury interior, app connectivity, and unbeatable torque – this is a hybrid SUV for the next generation. 30 miles of travel on battery makes it a perfect town car.



LOUIS VUITTON HORIZON 55 WITH ECHO

Cabin friendly but surprisingly roomy, Louis Vuitton's Marc Newson-designed case will look after your belongings in supreme style. If it has to hit the hold, the Echo tracker will inform you where it's ended up as soon as you land.



BANG & OLUFSEN BEOVISION ECLIPSE

Exquisite engineering, your choice of wood, aluminium or cloth finishes, and B&O's legendary sound engineering capabilities combine in a stunning 4K OLED TV. The stand is motorised, so you can angle it with just a touch.



MCINTOSH MT2

McIntosh's turntables are a sight to behold and to hear. Green highlights pair with a moving coil cartridge, a decoupled power supply, and perfect sound ready from the factory – all the fiddly stuff is ready out of the box.



GADGET OF THE YEAR



APPLE IPHONE X

Our Phone of the Year winner was a strong contender for this award too – you only need to glance around at how many people have one, despite its ultra-premium price tag, to realise how strongly Apple hit this out of the park. There's a premium quality to the phone's finish that few other gadgets match this year, and the boldness of its button-less design showed us that Apple still has the capacity to surprise. The iPhone X is simply a brilliant bit of tech that deserves to be celebrated.



SAMSUNG GALAXY S9

Samsung may have taken a year off from pushing forward the design of its phones – instead taking the time to refine the already excellent S8's build – but it didn't relent on the overall package. The S9's dual-aperture camera brought some 'pro' camera finesse to phone shooting, and Samsung continues to make perhaps the most appealing screens you can get in any handset. With the S9 there's simply no better showcase of what a premium Android experience can be.



MICROSOFT XBOX ONE X

The most powerful console ever made has put Microsoft back on top of the gaming arms race. The Xbox One X is an engineering wonder, packing a processor and graphics chip capable of running cutting-edge games in native 4K (without upscaling from a lower resolution), yet somehow it's 40 per cent smaller than the console it replaced. Throw an impeccable controller into the mix, and 4K Blu-ray support, and you get one of the smartest gadgets you can stick under your telly.



AMAZON ECHO SPOT

As the Echo moves from being voice only to visual too, we're discovering brilliant new ways for it to fit into our homes. So on that score the Spot really hits the, uh, spot. The dinky round screen is perfect as a bedside clock replacement...One that just so happens to pull double duty as your smart assistant. But the ability to do things like make video calls (including from within the house) and to see information at a glance makes the Echo Spot a true innovation for every home.



HUAWEI P20 PRO

The surprise package of the year shows us that there's still space for innovation in the phone world. The triple-camera system, and its much lauded Leica lenses, produce absolutely stunning results – and for a lot of people, the camera is the most important part of the phone. Huawei backed that up with build quality to match the major phone players, plus AI smarts powered by a custom processor, and a fabulous two-tone finish that feels like nothing else out there right now.



DELL XPS 13

Great laptops do more with less, so it's no surprise that the XPS 13 is the best laptop. In its tiny frame you'll find a generous 13-inch screen with pin-sharp 4K resolution, which makes working on everything from documents to photos a dream. It doesn't skimp on productivity either, packing in plenty of processing power and a comfortable keyboard. And it's so light and small, you can take it everywhere without hassle. That's the real trick here: it feels like the ultimate companion PC.



OCULUS GO

Standalone virtual reality, without the need to plug in your phone or a PC, could be the biggest upcoming tech trend, and with the release of the Go, Oculus is leading the way. It's built more for comfort and convenience than tech superiority, which is exactly what's needed for VR. The super-comfortable strap has headphones built in, the lightweight build sits perfectly on the head, and it offers up access to hundreds of VR apps. The revolution starts here, people.



APPLE HOMEPOD

Apple's entry into the smart speaker market blew us away with its supreme audio quality. The HomePod's six tweeters are arranged in a circle, with a woofer that could match the much bigger units you get in a car for low-end power. These work in tandem with sound-detecting mics, tuning the sound for any room the HomePod's placed in, so audio quality is always superb. This setup also makes Siri hugely responsive and able to pick up words even over a din.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Sonos One

When someone asks what it takes to be a T3 Gadget of the Year winner, there are lots of very long answers about the state of technology at that given time, but there's also an equally accurate and much shorter answer: polish. We want products that fit so seamlessly into our lives that they feel truly essential as soon as we start using them. That's exactly what Sonos achieved with the release of the One speaker.

Smart speakers have the potential to be one of the most transformative technologies since the mouse. With Alexa in every room and Amazon's powerful cloud services on the other end, the *Star Trek* dream of asking the computer to find out or do just about anything for you is within our grasp.

While the early Echo devices (and their equivalents) leapt ahead on the 'smart' side, the 'speaker' part was neglected. With music (or radio, podcasts, audiobooks, or anything else you enjoy listening to) being such a big part of our lives, we really do need the best of both worlds.

The Sonos One mixes Alexa support with an excellent speaker, as well as the technical excellence and flexibility of Sonos' system. As a smart speaker on its own, it's great. You can set up Alexa through the app and start controlling your smart home, asking questions about the world, or enabling the thousands of skills available for making Alexa do almost anything. In this area alone, the One is a great gadget.

Then you take into account the One's multi-room skills... If you already

have a Sonos system, the One slots right in as a new target for playing music throughout your house from all sources the Sonos app supports. It's also extremely easy to get up and running – it detects your existing Sonos products and copies their settings – and you could even grab a couple of One speakers and turn them into a stereo setup in a single room. They sound fantastic together, and sync playback impeccably.

The One is also ideal for a wireless home cinema system. You can use the T3 Award-winning Sonos Beam (p44) soundbar and place a couple of Sonos One speakers behind you for the optimum surround sound experience – they'll all work together perfectly, sending the right parts of the soundtrack to the right place.

One of the things that tipped this prestigious award in the One's favour is the inclusion of AirPlay 2, Apple's wireless streaming tech, which means Apple users can play anything to it from their devices outside of the Sonos app. Even better, AirPlay 2 is multi-room, so you can mix and match the One with the HomePod and other AirPlay 2 speakers. And with Google Assistant support promised, the One won't just be one of the best-sounding and easiest-to-use speakers on the market, it'll be the most flexible.

Polish. Simplicity. Flexibility. Getting the balance right with these three is almost possible, but Sonos expertly pulled it off, leading to the Sonos One being crowned our Gadget of the Year.





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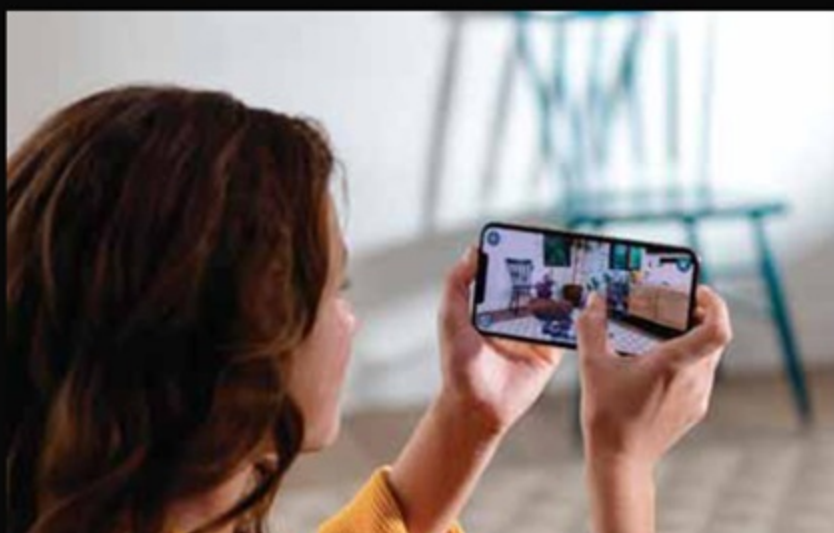
DRIVEN TO XS

Words: Matt Bolton, Gareth Beavis

Meet the super-fast next-gen iPhone with the most advanced processor ever, and the Apple Watch that could save your life with its medical-level monitoring



iPhone



SPECIFICATIONS

Screen 5.8-inch 2436x1125 OLED Super Retina HD (XS); 6.5-inch 2688x1242 (XSMax)
Processor A12 Bionic **Storage** 64GB/256GB/512GB **Cameras** 12MP telephoto and wide-angle rear, 7MP True Depth front
Battery life up to 20 hours (XS); up to 25 hours (XSMax)
Dimensions 143.6x70.9x7.7mm (XS); 157.5x77.4x7.7mm (XS Max) **Weight** 177g (XS); 208g (XSMax)

XS

The new iPhone takes things to the Max, with a new 6.5-inch model that has the biggest display on an iPhone ever, plus enhanced speed, better camera tech, and improvements across the board

When it launched last year, the iPhone X was something phone fans desperately wanted: a new style of handset from Apple.

That need was filled, so this year we weren't expecting anything like such a big change – and that's been the case with the Apple iPhone XS. The new phone is similar to last year's model, but with some key upgrades: there's now an option for 512GB of storage, it has an all-new A12 Bionic chipset to improve the speed and camera performance, and there's an enhanced OLED display. The biggest change is that there's now a 6.5-inch XS Max model, presented as an alternative to the 5.8-inch regular XS.

Design-wise, there's a striking new gold colour, but beyond that the same frame as last year is present: all stainless steel wrapped around a glass front and back. The only real changes

improved the performance of the display over the X's by adding 60 per cent better dynamic range to the already-offered HDR 10 and Dolby Vision movies. This improves the quality further by managing to make both bright and dark elements of the scene rich and clear, without just driving the brightness right up and ruining the overall quality.

We played *Ready Player One* – a visually rich experience – and, as you'd expect, the colour reproduction and clarity between the light and dark scenes was pretty impressive.

INCHING UP

The XS Max's 6.5-inch 2688x1242 screen is Apple's biggest in a phone yet. It's clearly designed for Plus owners who liked how apps could show more information on the bigger screens – hopefully, software will make the most of this screen, but we'll have to see how that goes.

One thing we can say for certain is that this isn't a phone for one-handed use. It's way too big for that, though it doesn't feel overly heavy at 208g.

Simply scrolling around the device also feels impressive, thanks to the phenomenal speed of the new A12 Bionic chip. Apps opened and closed in a flash, the camera fired up instantly, and while we took an age to load a Bethesda game (*Elder Scrolls Blaze*) the overall quality when we got into it was great, and really does offer the feeling that you're getting console quality on a smartphone.

The camera refinements are fairly minor this year, though still good to have. The two 12MP sensors remain, both with optical image stabilisation,

though larger pixels should capture crisper and brighter images. Portrait Mode, which delivers a DSLR-style bokeh effect, now enables you to change how strongly blur is applied.

The bigger change is the phone's capability to understand and improve photos through its on board smarts: it now dynamically analyses scenes and enhances overall photo quality using AI, similar to how the Google Pixel 2 and Huawei P20 Pro do. When testing the camera in the demo area, things were super crisp and clean, but we'd expect that in bright conditions. We're looking forward to testing it properly in our review.

There aren't many huge leaps forward in battery life on the iPhone XS, but that's hardly surprising given it has the same frame, with little room to shove in extra battery capacity.

MAX POWER

Apple is claiming that the regular XS is capable of lasting 30 minutes longer than the iPhone X, which is nice, but not exactly groundbreaking. Apple says the XS Max has the largest battery Apple has ever put on an iPhone, and promises battery life improved by over an hour and a half in real use compared to the iPhone X, which is more like it.

There are some good improvements here, but we can't say the upgrades we saw were overpowering. It may be that, for a lot of people, getting the iPhone X a little cheaper is more tempting than this, but we'll bring you our full verdict next issue.

The iPhone XS starts from £999 (64GB), while the iPhone XS Max starts from £1,099 (64GB).

A big change is the phone's capability to understand and improve photos

are mostly invisible: the iPhone XS is now water-resistant to IP68 rating, an improvement on the X, which means you can slosh it about in the bath or shower without a care in the world (though you still probably shouldn't do this). There are also dual speakers on the top and bottom of the device, offering a much more enveloping and impressive sound.

The screen is easily the most visible change, and that's because Apple has

iPhone

Business at the front, party at the back, Apple's new phone design mixes the best of the iPhone X with the price of an iPhone 8... And it looks great

XR

When Apple said it saw the iPhone X design as the future of its phone, it wasn't kidding. This year, every new model uses the nearly all-screen look, including this lower-cost model. Starting from £749 (64GB), the iPhone XR still packs in the super-fast A12 Bionic chip and Face ID, but the screen is an LCD instead of OLED, and it's at a 6.1-inch size that splits the difference between the iPhone XS and XS Max. There's also a single rear camera instead of the twin setup on the XS. You still get Portrait Mode, though (in the past, only dual-cam iPhones have offered this).

It's not quite as premium in the hand as the iPhone XS – the aluminium build brings with it slightly larger bezels, and is a tad chunkier – but it does come in six great colours, including T3-favourite red. All that said, it doesn't feel cheap by any means. It still feels Apple-quality.

The generous screen feels more like the old Plus-sized iPhones than any other new model, and isn't too unwieldy despite being over six inches. It's possibly the best LCD phone screen we've seen, and we like how it supports True Tone and wide-colour gamuts, like the XS screen. It's clearly not quite as beautiful as the amazing OLED in the XS, but this is probably where Apple is saving a lot of the price.

The single camera produced great results in our limited testing so far, actually exceeding what we expected based on the specs.

We think there's a chance this will turn out to be the iPhone hit of 2018/19, even more so than the XS. We'll bring you our review soon.



Apple Watch Series 4

Thinner, faster, with a bigger screen and medical-grade health analysis, the new Watch takes the best smartwatch on the market to an incredible new level

The Apple Watch has stayed more or less the same since its launch, give or take a few colour changes. The new model finally moves things forward, cutting 0.7mm off the thickness, and increasing the size of the screens so that they take up more of the front without making the case noticeably bigger.

Even though it's a tad thinner, Apple says it gets the same battery life (which it quotes at 18 hours, but we get at least double that from the Series 3 when not using the GPS intensely). The new processor will help with keeping the power low (and is a faster dual-core chip), as does a different power-sipping display tech. The Digital Crown has been re-engineered to now include haptic feedback as you turn it, which has a really nice 'click'

when you spin it. This little touch makes the whole thing feel more like a mechanical device.

Apple is using the bigger screen to enable you to add more complications to the Watch face. It doesn't seem to be any brighter, but the extra size impresses when you see it.

We couldn't test the upgraded fitness features meaningfully in our time with the Watch so far, but they sound promising, and we're also huge fans of the new health and security features (see below).

The Watch Series 4 starts at £399 for the basic 40mm model, with the models including GPS and 4G connectivity starting at £499. You can only use the 4G function if your iPhone contract is on EE or Vodafone, though – this feature is getting an infuriatingly slow rollout.

LOOKING GOOD

The new Watch models are now thinner, but come with bigger screens: 40mm and 44mm (compared to 38mm and 42mm in older models). The screens reach closer to the edges of the device and have curved corners, so they have a lot more surface area than the older. There's also a new gold stainless steel finish, with matching Milanese Loop.



POETRY IN MOTION



The new Watch can detect your motion levels at a much more finely tuned level, which not only makes its tracking more accurate, but also enables a new feature: fall detection. When you take a big tumble, the Watch now asks if you're okay, and you can call the emergency services (and send your location to a contact) if needs be. If you don't respond within a minute, it will call anyway. Lots of us have elderly relatives that this could be a godsend for.

AT THE HEART

Improved heart-rate accuracy in the new Watch is good for fitness buffs (the Watch was not best-in-class in this case), but its new ability to detect low heart rate and even atrial fibrillation is a game-changer. Now, not only does it have a pulse-detecting light on the back, it has an echocardiogram too. Place a finger on the Digital Crown and it takes medical grade readings, looking for abnormal heart rates. Helping people to diagnose this hard-to-spot condition means it really could change lives.



Road blocks

Want to build your own supercar? Here's how Lego built a drivable, life-size Bugatti Chiron replica from a million pieces of plastic

Words: Matt Bolton



When Lego announced that its next deluxe Technic model would be a Bugatti, the company invited us to visit the car maker's test track in Germany. Not to see the small model, but something more mind-blowing: Lego has built, from over a million pieces of Technic, a life-size Lego Bugatti Chiron... That actually drives.

Weighing around 1,500kg, the car is built pretty much solely from Technic pieces, with the exception of a steel frame (necessary for supporting all that weight), wheels (necessary for being round in a way that Lego is not), hydraulic brakes, power steering, a roll cage (just in case), and a few other mechanical pieces that really can't be made of plastic.

It's the first Lego creation of this kind of scale to be built without using

glue to hold the pieces together, and that also means it's the first time Lego had to build load-bearing sections purely from Technic. Even more impressive is that the car was so complex, the computer modelling systems the team normally uses couldn't handle all of the design, so most of it was planned by hand.

"The first beams were built on a table, and we were testing the properties of them and what they could withstand," explained Pavel Volný, an engineer on the project.

We were curious about how the team kept track of how it was going to look and fit together at the final stages with no fully planned model to refer to. "We almost lived together for like a quarter of a year," said Pavel. "We were discussing things ad hoc, on the spot. We had to be sure that each and

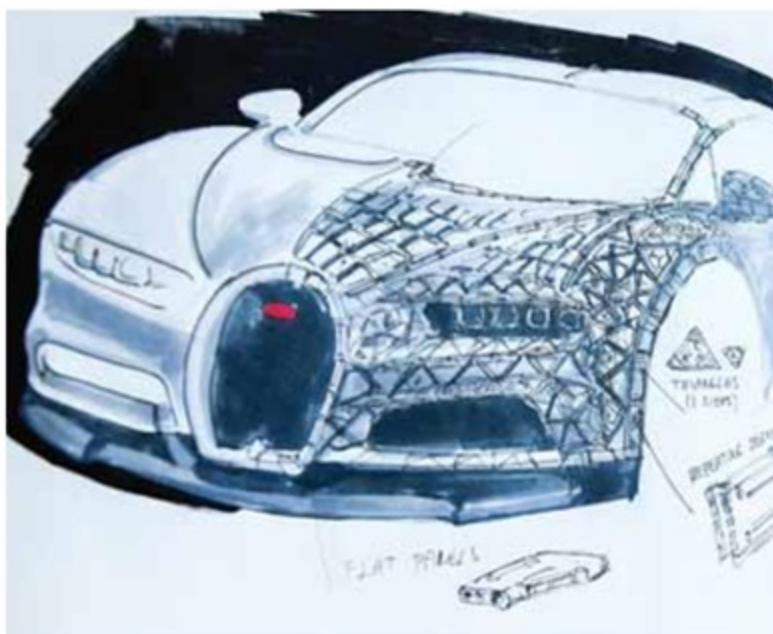


LEFT

Early sketches of the concept for the skin, which looks a little like designs for the Spider-Mobile

RIGHT

During construction, and with the car all in one piece, the team starts adding details and layering on the Lego skin



every member of the team had the right information at the right time."

The need for the car to support its own weight on Lego connections alone led to some complications in the way it was built, from the centre out. For a start, the body isn't connected to the steel frame in any fixed way. Instead it just sits on it, held in place by gravity and a brick structure that wraps around the frame.

STUCK IN THE MIDDLE

This approach meant that once the team started building on top of that core structure, they were kind of stuck with it. "In the beginning we had to make a lot of decisions with the design crew, because we knew that it wouldn't be easy – or even possible – to change things," explained Pavel. "If you want to change some special part which is inside, I'm not sure you'd be able to reach it. But we decided that we definitely need to change the engine and make it easy to change."

The engine is a feat of engineering in itself. The car is equipped with a huge power pack built from Lego Technic Power Functions motors. Normally, these do things such as making conveyer belts move on models only a couple of feet long. Here they make a full-size car *drive*. The trick is sheer numbers: over 2,300 Technic motors are connected into one huge engine

The end result is a whopping 5.3 horsepower, aimed to push the car up to around 30kph. This, admittedly, doesn't quite match up to the 1,479 horsepower and 400kph (248mph – that's electronically limited) of the real Bugatti Chiron.

In fact, the engine was the most challenging part of all from a mechanical perspective, and not just

96,768 LEGO GEARS TRANSFER THE POWER OF 2,304 ELECTRIC MOTORS TO A 3D-PRINTED CARBON FIBRE GEAR WHEEL

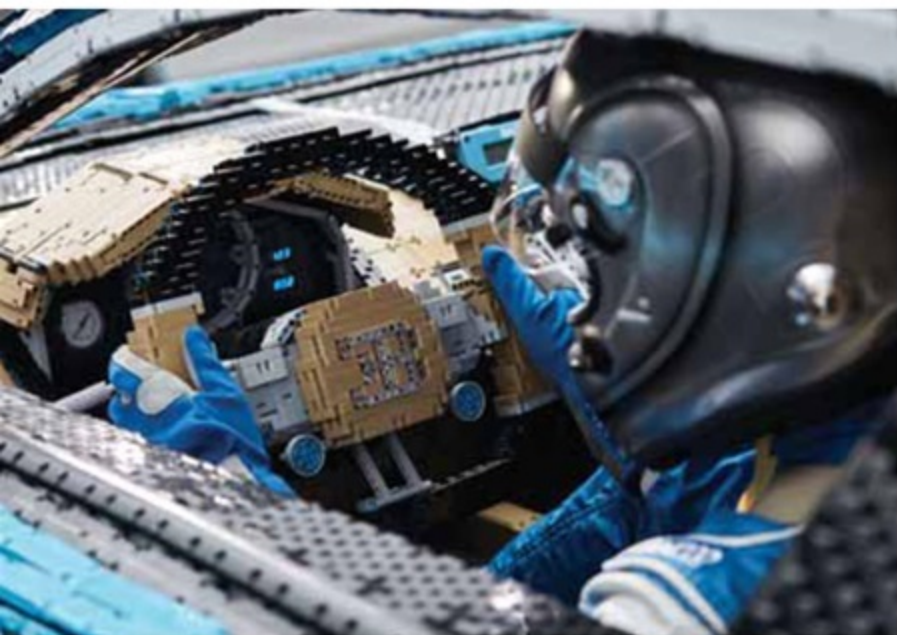
block. This is divided into 24 motor packs, each comprising 96 individual motors. On top of that, 96,768 Lego gears transfer the power to a 3D-printed carbon fibre gear wheel, connected to the drive shaft.

because it includes well over 100,000 parts connected intricately. The first version was running way too hot: 70°C, to be exact. The motors couldn't be changed for something else, and it couldn't be made much larger, so the team experimented with reducing friction. They ended up using Teflon washers and silicon grease around the rotating parts, which reduced the temperature to a safer 32°C.

Having conquered the trials of the structure and the engine, one huge challenge remained: how to best mimic the curved look of the Chiron using the square angles of Lego.

The colour was relatively easy... Technic pieces were specially created in the correct hues to copy the look of the real Chiron. However, the pieces were still the same hard shape.

The solution to this problem is the most visually spectacular aspect of the entire car, and mind-blowing in its ingenuity: they created a Lego fabric. The mottled effect you see in these



LEFT

The inside is fully detailed and faithful to the original, though perhaps a tad pointier when it comes to curves



It has the menacing look of the actual car, despite having the power of an elderly donkey



pictures is a result of the Lego Chiron's outer 'skin' being made of triangles built from Technic pieces, in two different sizes, all tessellated together. Hold a sheet built from this design out flat and it flexes, like a woven material.

The car itself has an underframe of Lego, with a series of pillars sticking out from it, at different heights. The 'skin' is mounted onto these pillars, and so the way it sits over them creates those all-important curves.

Each of the pillars is actually a linear actuator, which means they can all have their heights individually adjusted by reaching through the gaps in the skin and screwing. It means the skin's shape can be fine-tuned, even when it's on the car, to make sure the organic look is perfect. This was originally done by hand, but it was wrecking the team's wrists. A drill was too powerful to do it precisely, so they built a custom low-power electric drill for this specific purpose out of – yep, you guessed it – Lego.

Recreating the look has been managed even better in other areas. To echo the carbon fibre weave areas on the original car, a special weave of Lego was created for those parts. To create the dramatic rear lights, the first

ever transparent Lego Technic bricks had to be produced.

That wasn't the only extra mile the Lego team went to for the lights. They run on an electrical system (controlled through an app, which talks to an adapted smart home controller buried deep in the body) that makes them light up in a pattern that copies exactly the way the original Chiron lights up when turned on, playfully flashing along the strip of its headlights.

WINGING IT

The final crucial detail to get right was the rear wing. The Lego car's five horsepower may mean it doesn't have the need for a dramatic air brake, but it's not a Chiron without one. The Lego car's wing is pneumatically powered, with the air stored in eight Lego Technic pneumatic tanks. They take a few seconds of priming, but then it's just a matter of a tap in the app to raise the wing to its brake position.

Agonisingly, our visit to the Buggati test track was on the only rainy day they experienced there all summer, so we couldn't actually test the drivability (and comfort of that all-Lego interior). Well, we guess that's the peril of a gappy, plastic electric car.



BUILD IT YOURSELF

You can't have the life-size version, but this 3,599-piece Chiron should keep you busy...

Fun fact: the £329 Bugatti Chiron Technic set you can buy and build at home took longer to create (about 18 months) than the full-size one (around 12 months). Getting the look right at 1:8 scale (it's about 24 inches long when finished), and packing in an eight-speed gearbox with paddle control, wasn't easy. The result is an incredibly cool and memorable build for Lego or car fans to put together.

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HOW WE TEST

In T3, we feature only the finest gadgets out there, and we believe that you – our loyal reader – deserve only the best tech in your life. We don't want you to waste time, and money, on inferior products, and that's exactly why our Tested section exists.

In here you'll find only the latest and hottest tech. Each product has been handpicked and tested by T3's experts.

We only choose people with specialist knowledge for each test, so you know you're going to get an outcome based on many years of experience in their respective field.

As well as our traditional five-star rating system (right), we also give out awards to particularly exceptional gadgets, using the line-up below – so when you spot one of these, you'll know you're onto a good thing.

THE SCORES EXPLAINED

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ Forget it
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ Below average
- ★ ★ ★ ☆ ☆ Good for the price
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ Very good all round
- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ An exceptional, best-in-class product

OUR AWARDS



Only the best products – those that score five stars – receive our Platinum Award



This is given to winners of our group tests, so you can see which is the best at a glance



This accolade, and others like it, show you which gear is best for specific features



For kit with exceptional industrial design and refinement, in addition to being a great buy

SPECIFICATIONS

Projector resolution LED 720p HD, 52-359cm size **Speakers** 4x 10W full-range drivers, 50W subwoofer **Cameras** 13MP 360-degree top camera, 5MP front camera **Operating system** Keecker OS1, Android TV 7 **Storage** 32GB or 128GB **Dimensions** 38.8x37.8x39.7cm **Weight** 9.4kg

R2-T3

Keecker

The home robot revolution is here, and Keecker is leading the way. Will this entertainment buddy find a place in your house?

£1,690
Smartech at selfridges.com

Technology is on the cusp of something huge. All the advances in sensors, AI and batteries mean that the dream of home robots to assist us is within reach. Okay, it won't exactly be *The Jetsons* or *I, Robot* at first (which is probably a good thing, in

the latter case), but the path that started with time-saving robot vacuums is leading somewhere really exciting. The next big step looks like the bot we have here: Keecker.

Short and sweet

Standing 15 inches tall, Keecker trundles around your home like a baby dalek. It's filled with AV equipment, and entertainment is its big focus, with a small side of security. The biggest feature is its HD projector, which enables it to throw

LASER QUEST

A series of lasers around Keecker's black band scan for obstacles, helping it to avoid bumping into legs/tables/pets

LOUD SPEAKER

This curvaceous robot is a mobile house party, too, packing a decent speaker system to soundtrack your next social gathering



an Android TV-powered screen on any wall or ceiling. Backed by four speakers and a subwoofer for meaty sound, the idea is that this is an entertainment system that can find its way around your house to set up anywhere. Netflix binge in the kitchen? Summon Keecker! Project a movie on the ceiling while you lie in bed? Summon Keecker (assuming your bedroom is on the same floor)!

Keecker can map your home (do this first) so that it can head where you want it to go of its own accord. You can label up your house so that Keecker understands where the kitchen, living room and hallway are, and even areas such as the main entrance. You can also choose specific points where the robot should set up for projection – in front of the one clear wall in the lounge, for example.

Controlling Keecker is a matter of using voice control or the app. Voice control is a double whammy: you can say “Key Keecker” and issue commands to the bot itself, if it can hear you. Or, Alexa and Google Assistant compatibility means you

can use smart speakers dotted around your house to tell Keecker where to go, or to start up the projector.

Up and running

Setting the robot up is easy enough, following the instructions in the app. Once you've added a Keecker there, opening the app brings up a list of your available Keeckers (you can change their names if you take home a whole litter of them), and shows whether you're connected over Bluetooth, Wi-Fi or through the cloud. Having Bluetooth only means that any video streaming between your phone and Keecker is limited, but you can summon it around the house. The difference between Wi-Fi and cloud is pretty much just how much lag there is before it responds.

The app encourages you to map your home early, and this is a good example of how Keecker often feels quite advanced yet weirdly awkward. We assumed it would roll off and map the house itself using its laser array, the way a Neato vacuum does. But no, we had to manually drive Keecker

There's a nice *Star Wars*-esque retro-future look to Keecker that we dig

around our house using a virtual joystick, letting the lasers build up a map as it goes. The end result looked a bit wonky, but the bot was largely able to find its way around, avoiding obstacles. We used it mostly on hard floors, where it was fine. On carpet (and rugs), its mobility is less slick.

In the same section of the app as the mapping is the ability to send Keecker to locations in the house with a single tap, or to use the cameras. Keecker has a 360-degree camera on top, as well as a 5MP front-facing camera. In this portion of the app you can connect to either camera, as well as drive the robot around remotely while streaming. The quality of streaming is pretty average – good enough to recognise someone.

But this is about all the use the cameras have, even though driving the camera around your house to check on things at any time is great. The moment Keecker felt like great value was when, during a weekend away, we became convinced we'd left the oven on. No problem: we fired up the Keecker app, connected over 4G,




VENTILATION SHIFT

When you're streaming movies to its projector, Keecker's fans will kick in hard, pushing air out of the these large rear vents


UP AND DOWN

The projector rotates a full 90 degrees, for beaming onto the ceiling, at a low angle, or anywhere in between. It self-corrects the image skew

engaged the bot's camera, and drove Keecker from its charging dock over to the oven. All was fine.

But still, it feels like a missed opportunity to be more useful when it comes to security. Really, it should be more proactive: maybe it could listen for unusual sounds when you're out of the house, move to their location, and send you an image or video clip. As it is, you have to *already* know you need to see something.

Trying to entertain you

The other portion of the app you'll spend the most time in is a remote

There are solid handholds under Keecker's left and right sides, for when you want to manually shift it

control for the TV interface. This is just too clunky. Different apps have different control systems – some can be navigated using an on-screen set of arrows, but some require you to switch to a virtual trackpad (and you have to manually switch to a keyboard when you need it). Some scroll when you move to the bottom of the screen, others when you use two fingers on the trackpad. You can get used to it, but it's so far from slick.

On top of that, the choice of apps on Android TV is poor. You can get any app you want from the store, but that doesn't include Amazon Prime

Video or BBC iPlayer, for example. Netflix, ITVHub and the Google Play store are here, and they work perfectly well, so if these limitations don't sound like a problem then great. But it meant that we just ended up using an iPad for streaming instead.

Kind of predictably, given that it's crammed into a mobile case, the 720p projector Keecker uses is pretty average and easily washed out by light. It has a few different brightness options, so you can make sure you're getting the full vibrancy of it with a few taps (at the expense of battery life), but it's no home cinema.

MORE HOME ROBOTS ARE COMING

UBTECH WALKER

Keep your eye on Ubttech: the toy robot company is one of the best places to bring actually useful robots to the home. Walker is a 'home butler' prototype, that it claims could launch in 2019 (and with arms, no less).

£TBC, ubtrobot.com


SEGWAY LOOMO

Firstly, this is a personal transportation system. Fold out the little arms (and head) and it becomes a self-driving bot that follows you autonomously while carrying your shopping home, or your beers to the living room.

\$1,799 (£1,395), segwayrobotics.com


AEOLUS

This 'household helper' bot can recognise objects using AI-based vision, and then use its grabbing arm to bring them to you. Its other arm is modular and can hold a vacuum cleaner or other equipment. In theory, it'll be out soon.

£TBC, aeolusbot.com



SEE THE LIGHT

The ring around the top-mounted camera lens is a light. It turns on when the camera is active, when Keecker is charging, or when it's listening to voice commands



It is, however, good at aligning with the wall and automatically getting the angle and focus correct. There's also an 'Align' button to help make sure the Keecker itself is directly facing the wall, so it's not hard to get the best possible image.

But you've still got to contend with a lot of fan noise, which again mars the Keecker experience a little. This, and the limited image quality, are the result of it being portable, and we get that there are trade-offs. However, when combined with the lack of streaming options it makes us wish that the expense and effort of the projection part of Keecker had gone into something that's more than just 'fine'. Again, if what we've described sounds like it'll work for you, you should get on well with it.

One area that's strong without question is the speaker system. It's hardly been designed for audiophiles (especially over the fan noise), but it goes damn loud and sounds full. You can definitely run a party off a Keecker (if only the projector had a disco-ball mode, eh?).

The fact that Keecker runs on Android TV gives you another round of Jekyll and Hyde. There's basically a hidden app, called Keecker Services,

running on it that powers things like voice control and movement. This works fairly well. Keecker didn't have a problem picking us up in a quiet room, though when playing music it became fairly deaf to our requests. It also responds quickly, though it can be a little hesitant to start moving at times, which can leave you unsure initially as to whether or not it has heard your command.

Android in a robot

The reason we know about the Keecker Services app running invisibly is that it crashed on us. The rest of the Android OS was fine, but we had a paralysed robot, albeit one that could still play what we wanted on Netflix. We were back up and running after a restart, but Android TV does tend to be a fragile base.

There's a lot of negative in this review, but that's because Keecker does so much stuff. It has so many features that work well but not brilliantly, for little reasons. We can overlook the small things, but here they all add up to make us say that Keecker is something you should buy with your eyes wide open to where its limitations are. That said, the idea of a version 2.0 has us excited.

Keecker's smooth, white surface is a little prone to smudges, so keep some wipes handy in the kitchen

The best way to summarise how we felt about Keecker might be to tell you about our resident robot vac, Derek. Derek does his work every morning, autonomously, save for the odd message to say he's stuck. It makes Derek feel almost like a pet. If someone took Derek away, we'd be sad and would have to replace him right away. When they came to take the Keecker we were disappointed, but... We survived just fine.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED There's a lot of technology packed in here; works well over local or cloud connection; plenty of voice control options.

WE'D IMPROVE Camera/security features feel like an afterthought; lack of streaming options; struggles on carpet; not autonomous enough.

THE FINAL WORD This is a fun idea that works well enough, albeit with too many compromises.

★★★★☆

Have we convinced you about robot vacuums? See the best at: bit.ly/robovac



10-INCH PRO TABLETS

Samsung Galaxy Tab S4

£599, samsung.com

Vs

Microsoft Surface Go

From £379 (£509 tested), microsoft.com

SCREEN ★★★★★

The 16:10 10.5-inch screen is a gorgeous, bright AMOLED panel at 2560x1600, making it a tad sharper than the 10-inch iPad Pro, and cleaner than the Surface Go. It does tend to be slightly bluer than the Go, but has beautiful rich blacks.

DESIGN AND FEATURES ★★★★★

With slimmed bezels and a glass front and back, this feels premium. You get the S Pen bundled in, making it solid value, even at a higher starting point. Fast iris/face scanning handles biometric security. 64GB of storage is pretty average.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

Samsung has smoothed Android to a T here, so it feels very slick. The chip is less powerful than the iPad Pro, but compares well to the Surface Go. Pen responsiveness is excellent – we saw no lag – and battery life is fine. Expect 10–12 hours of use.

SOFTWARE ★★★★★

It's easy to run apps split-screen on the Tab S4, and you've got the Google Play Store at your disposal, but the quality of Android tablet apps is still up and down. Samsung's special menu for the S Pen (for making instant notes or annotating) is superb.

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Beautiful screen; feels fast and slick; pen is included, and really well integrated.
WE'D IMPROVE App options are good, but not great; ace for very core apps, but less so for niche.

★★★★★

SCREEN ★★★★★

The 10-inch 1800x1200 LCD screen is an unusual 3:2 shape, which is great for side-by-side documents, but less apt for wide video. It's as bright as the Samsung, but has less impressive dynamic range than the OLED display there.

DESIGN AND FEATURES ★★★★★

Wide bezels and a thick body make this look like an iPad, though the build is excellent. The built-in stand is welcome, but you need to pay for the pen if you want to scribble. Face unlocking works well and the 128GB of storage for £509 is good.

PERFORMANCE ★★★★★

Windows tends to stutter a little, and apps are a bit slower to launch (even on our £509 model, which has faster storage than the £379 model), but it's fast enough and multi-tasks well. The pen is perfectly responsive. Battery life is more like 6–8 hours.

SOFTWARE ★★★★★

The freedom of Windows is great, especially since you can upgrade from Windows 10 S to Home for free and unlock full power. It's still not really that tablet friendly (options are often quite hidden, or tiny at this resolution), but it's certainly powerful.

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED The power of Windows can't be beaten for flexibility; useful 3:2 screen for working.
WE'D IMPROVE More power and speed; stronger battery life; still isn't the most touch-friendly.

★★★★★

1st

2nd

See more of the best tablets: bit.ly/besttablet



ACTION PACKED

GoPro Hero7 Black

The action camera market has long been dominated by GoPro, but has it done enough with this new cam to hold onto the crown?

£379
gopro.com

Looking to extend its lead in the action camera market, GoPro's new Hero7 Black brings a host of updates to the already ace Hero6. Focusing on making videos less shaky, GoPro has given us new tech called HyperSmooth. This built-in electronic stabilisation enables you to ditch the gimbal and still capture judder-free footage. Audio is better, and there's a new TimeWarp function, gesture-based UI, and live streaming.

Impressively, these new features have been crammed into a case the exact same size and shape as its predecessor. The Hero7 is waterproof down to 10 metres, and you can expand that to an impressive 30 metres with an optional GoPro waterproof housing. Plus, there's the massive selection of compatible mounts and extras that already work with the Hero7.

One of our favourite new features is the ability to record TimeWarp videos, which use GoPro's image stabilisation to create moving timelapses (like you might see in a Casey Neistat vlog). They're ideal to set the scene, convey time passing, or to add variety to an edited video.

The real star of the show is HyperSmooth stabilisation, which now works on all video up to 4K at 60fps. HyperSmooth does its job incredibly well, and doesn't present any of the traditional warping or artifacts found on older GoPro cameras.

Audio recording capabilities have also been enhanced here, with built-in microphones able to capture more dynamic range (deeper lows, higher highs). There's also software targeting and eliminating sound from vibrations.

A touchscreen sits on the rear of the Hero7, but the user interface has been redesigned. As a result the menus, modes and settings are far more simple to use, with intuitive gestures that can be easily picked up. You also get voice control, which is handy when you can't reach the display or if you're wearing gloves.

When you connect to the GoPro smartphone app, you'll get live streaming. At launch you'll be able to send video directly to Facebook Live (via your smartphone's internet connection), with YouTube coming shortly after.

The GoPro Hero7 Black is undoubtedly the most powerful action camera the company has created. This year's updates have made getting professional shots easier, rather than bumping specs. As a result, we reckon GoPro has done enough to retain the coveted action cam crown.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Stabilisation really works; vastly improved UI; great TimeWarp function.

WE'D IMPROVE Only Facebook live-streaming at launch; no improvement to battery life.

THE LAST WORD GoPro has again proven itself the undisputed king of action cams. The Hero7 Black is expertly built, feature-stacked, and essential gear for thrill-seekers and adventurers.

★★★★★

Accessorise your new GoPro:
bit.ly/t3goproaccessories

SPECIFICATIONS

Sizes 55- or 65-inch **Panel** OLED
 3840x2160 **Speaker output** 80W
Connections 4x HDMI 4K, 3x USB,
 Ethernet, SD card, CI slot, Wi-
 Fi, optical audio, headphone jack
Dimensions 1228x785x330mm
 (55-inch) **Weight** 29kg (55-inch)



From £2,299
panasonic.com

MOVIE MAGIC

Panasonic FZ952B

Panasonic leads the way when it comes to truly cinematic telly, though it's lacking a couple of features

Panasonic rightly makes a big deal of its Hollywood connections. Not only does it have an R&D lab that's a stone's throw from the Walk of Fame, but all the OLED screens you buy at home have been finely tuned by Tinsel Town creatives, resulting in huge appeal for movie lovers. In fact, it's probably the best OLED TV ever made. But not all of it...

Star appeal

Well, Hollywood is nothing if not nice to look at, and build quality on the FZ952B is exceptional, with a slimline bezel and the best finishing this side of Harry Kane. It also comes with a dedicated soundbar, tuned by Technics audio engineers, which is similarly sleek. The TV is available in

55-inch (tested here) and 65-inch models. Size aside, the screens are essentially identical.

Before we go into detail about high-end video, there's extra good news: the set does a great job with upscaling HD channels. There's no sense that you're slumming it with sub-2160p fare, as long as the quality of the original is good. Of course, 4K HDR is better, and if you're watching a disc or stream at this quality there's a depth to the FZ952B's colour that's nothing short of mesmerising.

However, with SDR content the cinematic viewing modes dramatically reduce panel luminance (down to as little as 30 per cent), and shouldn't be used in anything other than fully dark room conditions. That's an important point to consider about this TV. As soon as you pop on a film, it looks the business... provided you choose the right image preset.

The Normal mode is the best option for watching in rooms with average



ambient light. Using Dynamic can oversaturate colour, but some content (animation, for example) can look divine. When displaying 4K HDR content, all the set's image presets lock to full panel luminance and contrast. The True Cinema mode beautifully replicates the image characteristics of a Hollywood mastering monitor, but requires near-dark viewing conditions to really impress.

Lack of Vision

HDR support covers HDR10, HLG and HDR10+, the new open standard developed to challenge Dolby Vision for the most advanced HDR image. Dolby Vision itself isn't supported, which isn't a deal breaker, but with HDR10+ not really having any support yet, it does mean you miss out on the best possible viewing option.

Fortunately, you probably won't mind, because with amazingly rich, dark images from its OLED screen, and impressive brightness when needed, it looks stunning. Motion handling is also decent, so with 4K HDR sports becoming more widely available, this will do nicely. The

FZ952 also makes for a superb gaming display, provided you use the Gaming mode to cut lag.

Sound quality is excellent for a flatpanel TV. The speaker bar uses four woofers, a quartet of mid-range drivers, two tweeters and a quad passive radiator for deeper bass. Its stereo presentation is first class. There's no Dolby Atmos, but outside of that it really cuts the need to buy a dedicated soundbar.

Speaking of Dolby Atmos, support for it is lacking entirely from this TV. There's no decoder, so you can't route Dolby Atmos from either a connected set top box or the internal Netflix client out to an Atmos sound system. This maybe the single biggest issue we have here: Atmos is incredible, and although there are ways around not having it, this is not ideal.

Plugged in

You get four HDMI inputs, but while all are 4K HDCP enabled, only two are full bandwidth. That means you can't run the highest-end 2160p 10-bit source into HDMI 3 or 4. The built-in operating system works well, and you've got streaming from Netflix,

The Panasonic FZ952B is a great telly for true movie fans, offering a mesmerising picture – but weirdly no Dolby Atmos support

Amazon Prime Video, ITVHub, All4 and loads more.

In many ways, the FZ952B is the best performing OLED screen we've seen this year. Its colour performance is extraordinary, while detail and HDR really shine. It also boasts a superior sound solution out of the box, and has a great smart platform. However, the lack of Dolby Vision and Dolby Atmos support means it's not a slam dunk against rival OLED panels, such as LG's OLED C8 and the jaw-dropping Sony AF8.

But if you want a 4K TV to suck the finest possible detail out of movies from *Casablanca* to *Ragnarok*, the Panasonic FZ952B is like having your own personal screening room.



VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Fabulous detail and colour finesse; nuanced HDR performance; great soundbar included.

WE'D IMPROVE No Dolby Vision HDR support; sadly not compatible with Dolby Atmos.

THE LAST WORD May be the best OLED picture yet, thanks to careful tuning and technical brilliance. The missing features are frustrating, but this TV is tempting for true movie lovers.



Find the best prices for this TV:
bit.ly/panfz952

THE RIVALS



SONY MASTER SERIES AF9

Sony's new top-end telly (coming soon) is built to mimic mastering monitors (such as

the FZ952B is), and has a calibration mode that matches the way Netflix shows are mastered.

£TBC, sony.co.uk



LG C8

Excellent OLED images for all sources, and the C8 has the Dolby Vision and Atmos features the Panasonic is

lacking. The speakers are weaker, but LG's more expensive TVs come with their own soundbars.

From £1,999, lg.com



WORK, REST...

Honor Play

It may be built for gaming, but the big screen, sleek design and piles of speed should appeal to anyone wanting a bargain phone

£279
hihonor.com

So far, the T3 hivemind isn't really sold on the need for gaming-focused phones. The Razer Phone is a great handset, but not because its 120Hz screen and Dolby Atmos speakers are good for games. They're just nice features generally. It's the same story with the Honor Play: its huge 6.3-inch screen and high-end processor might be pitched with gaming in mind, but a fast phone with a gorgeous screen is something we can all appreciate. Especially at this price.

Game on

The Honor Play does have other gaming features beyond those: the GPU Turbo tech aims to keep intensive games running silky smooth by boosting graphics power while playing, while Game Suite mode makes it easy to record what you're playing and to lock keys from accidental presses. Both work well, but aren't exactly pushing our Start button.

No, let's go back to the basics. The phone's display resolution of 1080x2340 looks lovely and sharp, and the screen is impressively bright.

The ratio of screen to body is insanely high here, and coupled with great build quality and fun colours, the Play is a bit of a looker.

The Kirin 970 processor is flagship level, matching the likes of the Samsung S9 for speed, yet it's in a phone under £300. Everything we did on the phone was super quick – there's no sign of it having been watered down. 64GB of storage is okay (a higher-tier option would have been welcome) but there's a microSD slot.

The fingerprint sensor can be found dead centre on the back of the phone, and worked perfectly for us. Above it, you'll find the 16MP+2MP dual-camera system, which uses Honor's AI tech to recognise what you're shooting and adjust settings accordingly. For example, switching to bokeh-tastic Portrait mode when you're snapping a person. You've also got a front 16MP camera, which has impressively fast facial recognition (though it's not as secure as Apple's Face ID system).

Add strong battery life on top of that, and you get a phone that's just a fantastic package. Yes, the addition of GPU Turbo and Game Suite are nice for those playing *Fortnite* on the go, but to focus on this phone being for gamers wouldn't do it justice: it looks, feels and runs like a quality Android phone, with high-end power for around half the price. We love it.

T3

VERDICT

WE'RE IMPRESSED Amazing performance for the price; great 6.3-inch screen; GPU Turbo feature works well.

WE'D IMPROVE An option with more storage would be nice.

THE LAST WORD Our new king of the cheaper phones. With flagship levels of power, an inviting screen, and no cut corners in the finish, this is a steal for everyone, not just gamers.

★★★★★

Find the best Honor Play deals:
bit.ly/t3honorplay

WIN!

AN iPhone XS WITH A MOUS PROTECTIVE CASE

Get your hands on Apple's latest and greatest phone, plus a military-grade case from Mous to keep it perfect

**WORTH
£1,053
TOTAL!**



It's the most magical time of the year: new iPhone time! Well, Apple says it's magical. And it isn't hard to see why when the iPhone XS is now the fastest phone on the planet, with a beautiful new screen, dual camera, zipper Face ID security, and a luxe new gold finish (among other colours). We know you want one, ideally for free, so we've got an 64GB iPhone XS, worth £999, to give away to a lucky reader, courtesy of Mous cases.

Once you have your all-screen, all-glass phone, you'll want to keep it in pristine condition, right? Well, you won't get more protection than from a Mous case. Mous is a UK-based company designing highly protective cases for Apple and Samsung.

It makes the cases using a unique smart material called AiroShock, which offers military-grade protection while adding a mere 2.3mm to the thickness of the phone.

These stylish cases are also thoughtfully built. How so? Where they wrap around the front of the phone, the lip is thicker at the corners to provide better protection from drops, yet tapers back along the edges so that the case doesn't get in the way of you actually using your phone.

The cases are finished with 100 per cent real materials, including walnut, shell and leather. Plus, each case features hidden magnets that work with other Mous add-ons to streamline your daily life. T3 can attest that Mous cases are ultra protective from real-life use – there's a reason they're nominated for a T3 Award!

Mous has dropped phones from 45ft cranes and even out of helicopters. Find out more about the company's journey, its crazy testing antics, and products for Apple and Samsung phones by visiting uk.mous.co.

To enter, simply answer the following question:

WHICH OF THESE IS NOT A MATERIAL THAT MOUS USES AS A FINISH ON ITS CASES?

- A** *Leather*
- B** *Bamboo*
- C** *Stilton*

Enter today at: bit.ly/mousiphone

The competition closes 26 October 2018. By taking part, you agree to be bound by the competition rules: futureplc.com/competition-rules. Entries must be received by midnight on 26 October 2018 (UK time). Open to UK residents aged 18 years and over. There will be one winner, entitled to one iPhone XS 64GB model, and one Mous Limitless 2.0 case for iPhone XS. The prize is non-transferable and non-refundable. There is no cash alternative.

Stylish laptop bags

Lug your lavish tech about in comfort, and look good while doing so

Words: Nick Odant zis Photography: Phil Barker



01

SWISH AND MINIMALIST CARRYING

TED BAKER STARK
£279, tedbaker.com

If you must have a briefcase for carrying your stuff, you could do a lot worse than this gorgeous offering from Ted Baker, decorated in a slick micro-perforated leather outer. The lining is classic TB, with a funky print, and you get lots of pockets within which to stash your belongings. There's a padded laptop sleeve, which, though designed for a 13-incher, sadly won't accommodate thicker, older laptops. The chunky handles are great to grasp, and there's a shoulder strap for added comfort.

★★★★☆



02

BOMBPROOF, BUT LACKS COMFORT

BROOKS RIVINGTON
£240, brooksengland.com

Brooks designs gear primarily for cycling, so rest assured this bag is tough and weatherproof, with a water-resistant fabric that looks and feels nice to the touch. There's a huge amount of space inside, plenty of pockets, and a padded sleeve for a 15-inch laptop. All good, then? Oddly, for a bag that's designed to be carried while riding – where comfort is key – the unpadded nylon straps hurt after a few minutes. And though the back is padded, we felt our laptop digging into our lower back.

★★★★☆



03

SIMPLE BUT EFFECTIVE

HERSCHEL HERITAGE
£60, herschelsupplyco.co.uk

A simple bag for simple pleasures, the Herschel Heritage gives you that back-to-school feel with a retro vibe. Inside you get a single yet generous laptop sleeve. It isn't padded, though, so be careful what you place against it. There's also a neat lower pocket for storing your phone, and a headphone port located higher up for listening to music without a cable getting in your way. The Heritage is capacious, comfy and cool, and you can buy it in a frankly ludicrous 45 unique colour options.

★★★★★

Let's be honest, shall we? A good laptop bag is essential in this day and age. Whether you need to carry your tech, your lunch or mission-critical documents, we all rely upon being able to move around

our stuff day-to-day without it getting lost or damaged en route. So choosing a bag should be at the top of your purchasing list. That bag needs to look good, too. That's why we've tested six of the most stylish laptop bags to help you find the ideal one. Each

of these bags does its job a little differently to the next, but there's a few things they all must do: carry your tech around in relative safety (bonus points if the bag offers more than a laptop sleeve), and make you look good when you're on the move.



04

A GOOD ALL-ROUNDER

PATAGONIA ARBOR CLASSIC 25L
£65, eu-patagonia.com

Patagonia's take on the vintage-style backpack is light in the hand, and has a tough 600D polyester fabric with a DWR finish for taking on the worst the city has to offer. There's loads of room inside, thanks to the single storage space, plus a generous smattering of zippered compartments. The padded insert will take even the chunkiest of laptops, too. Despite the lack of padding on the back and shoulder straps, it feels good to wear, though we did notice a bit of laptop intrusion on our lower back.

★★★★☆

05

RAT RACE-SURVIVING ABILITIES

MISSION WORKSHOP RHAKE
From £279.79, missionworkshop.com

If you have to ascend a mountain to get to the office, the military-spec Rhake is as rugged as it gets, with a choice of HT500 or MultiCam Cordura fabric; you can also spec super-tough Cobra AustriAlpin front connectors (for a £46 premium). Want pockets? This thing has all of them, with a laptop insert and hidden tablet pocket. Each gets a weatherproof lining and water-resistant zips. Well-padded straps make it comfy to wear, though the chest strap lacks adjustment for, ahem, larger folks.

★★★★★

06

LOTS OF HIDDEN CHARM

EASTPAK FLOID
£65, eastpak.com

As well as looking rather fetching – more so in this Corlange Spice colour – the Floid has plenty to offer on the inside. There's a padded laptop sleeve, and though the main compartment isn't huge (it's just 16L in capacity), you get two good-sized pockets on the front, a hidden expandable bottle holder, and another pocket at the rear, hidden from view. The latter is perfect for storing valuables, though annoyingly the lack of padding means if it's a phone you're stashing, you'll feel it against your back.

★★★★☆



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T3

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T3

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